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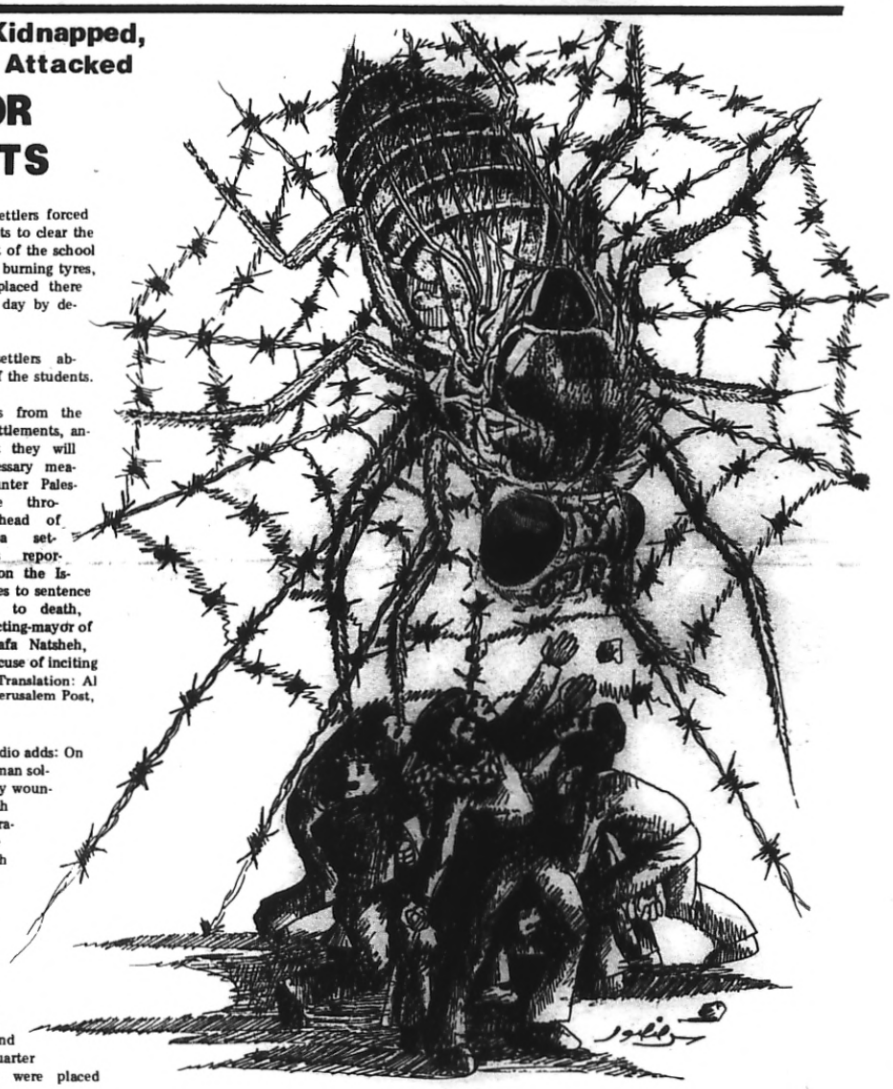
Child Wounded, Three Kidnapped, Mosque Bombed, Cars Attacked

SETTLERS TERROR OFFENSIVE STARTS



"A group of Israeli settlers, whose motive is to terrorise the Palestinian residents of Hebron, and force them to emigrate, was uncovered March 1 by Israeli police, *Haaretz* Hebrew daily reported March 2. The settler group, most of which is new immigrants from the US, was not arrested.

"The discovery of the group came after a series of attacks against Palestinian residents of the Hebron district during the past week, which resulted in the wounding of four and the kidnapping of three others.

"On Friday noon, February 25, a bomb which was timed to go off at the end of prayers, exploded outside a Hebron mosque slightly injuring two worshippers.

"Two days later, settlers from Kiryat Arba settlement fired at the house of Naser Mohammad Ja'abari, near the settlement, injuring his four year old daughter Alia.

"On the following day, February 28, a settler from the same settlement, wearing a military uniform, kidnapped Fayeq Naser Ja'abari, 12, brother of Alia, from the street near his house. It was learned after the boy was released, following intervention from the police, that he was abducted after the settler's jeep was struck by a snowball. The boy was playing in the snow with friends.

"Further south on the Yatta-Hebron road, Israeli settlers opened fire on an Arab taxi as it passed. The Palestinian driver escaped injury and sped towards the police station. The police later arrested three settlers from the ultraright-wing Kach movement, led by Meir Kahane.

"The settlers' activities increased on March 1. A construction materials merchant from Hebron, 'Amer Nu'man Natsheh discovered a bomb beneath the dash-board of his car. The car owner contacted the police, who in turn contacted the Israeli army. The bomb was safely defused.

"On the same day, a group of Israeli settlers forced their way into Yatta secondary school. The settlers forced several students to clear the street in front of the school of stones and burning tyres, which were placed there earlier in the day by demonstrators.

"The settlers abducted two of the students.

"Settlers from the West Bank settlements, announced that they will take all necessary measures to counter Palestinian stone throwers. The head of Kiryat Arba settlement has reportedly called on the Israeli authorities to sentence stonethrowers to death, and to sack Acting-mayor of Hebron Mustafa Natsheh, whom they accuse of inciting to violence." Translation: Al Mithaq, The Jerusalem Post, Al Fajr.

Israel Radio adds: On March 3, a woman soldier was slightly wounded in Ramallah when demonstrators stoned the vehicle in which she was travelling. In Nablus, a border patroller was wounded when he was hit by stones thrown from Balata refugee camp. Balata and the Qasabeh quarter in the town were placed under curfew.

In Yatta, the Hebron district, settlers opened fire after school children stoned their passing cars. Settlers entered a local school looking for perpetrators. There were also incidents in Jalazoun and Dheisheh refugee camps and al-Bireh. Translation: Al-Mithaq 2/3, Al Fajr 1/3, Jerusalem Post 1,2/3.

Schools Closed, Camps Curfewed

WEST BANK DEMONSTRATES AGAINST SETTLER VIOLENCE

Three schools in Ramallah and Nablus were closed for one month, and several refugee camps and city quarters were curfewed, following a series of demonstrations in the West Bank this week. According to Israeli reports, several Israeli military cars had their windshields shattered by stones. Demonstrations again centred on Nablus, and nearby refugee camps. Ain Beit Elma camp was later placed under curfew. Israel radio, which reported on the demonstrations, said that students of Ma'zouz al-Masri school in Nablus stoned military vehicles, which arrived to put down the demonstrations. Israeli soldiers fired tear gas at the youths. Later on, the school was ordered closed for one month. The Qasabeh quarter was also curfewed.

Agence France Presse reported March 1 that demonstrations were sparked off by recent Israeli settlers'attacks against Palestinians in the Hebron area. AFP said that demonstrating students raised Palestinian flags, and chanted anti-occupation slogans. In Nablus a molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli military vehicle. The Israeli army did not confirm the report.

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MILITARY DESTROY 6 GAZA HOMES

Photos taken at sites of five of six houses bulldozed by the occupation authorities last week in Gaza Strip — Left to right, top to bottom: Um Mahmoud Nasser, Jabalia camp; daughter of Muhammad Ahmad Abu Daqqa, Fakhari; Shehadeh Muhammad Abu Daqqa family, Fakhri; rubble of house of Zahara Muhammad Bheisi, Deir al-Balah camp; Ahmad Abd al-Hadi Bheisi family, Mughase camp; not pictured — home of Nashabat family, Deir al-Balah camp. Five families have a son in prison, not yet brought to trial. A son of Shehadeh Abu Daqqa, is wanted by the authorities. The destruction of 42 rooms has left 55 people homeless./POP Photos

ISRAEL ACKNOWLEDGES NEGOTIATIONS

Terms For Israel-PLO Prisoner Swap Specified

Khalil Wazir (Abu Jihad), the PLO's deputy military commander, said February 24 that Israel has offered to release 800 Palestinian prisoners through the Red Cross, for the eight soldiers held by the PLO. Meanwhile, an Israeli official has admitted, for the first time, that there are indirect negotiations with the PLO on prisoner exchanges.

Abu Jihad told Austrian TV in Algeria that the PLO will study the Israeli proposal. He talked about the difficulties in the negotiation process and said that Israel should not complicate them further. "If Israel agrees to our terms," Abu Jihad added, "the PLO will hand over the eight Israeli soldiers in Vienna within 24 hours."

In a press conference, in Israel, Moshe Nativ, head of the Israeli army manpower branch, said that, "Israel is negotiating with the PLO and Syria through the good offices of the Austrian government to secure the release of Israeli prisoners and the return of those missing and captured in the Lebanon war." The Israeli military spokesman denied that Israel has proposed the release of 800 prisoners in exchange for the eight Israeli soldiers. Nativ said that Israel is studying PLO demands and that no negotiations with the PLO on this matter are "still continuing."

According to the Voice of America, Israel has included demands for the release of Israeli soldiers as part of their conditions for withdrawal from Lebanon. Nativ confirmed this and noted that Israel "remains firm" in its decision that there can be no withdrawal from Israeli positions in Lebanon until "all the Israeli prisoners missing and the bodies of those killed are returned."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) spokesperson in Geneva confirmed that Israel proposed that 800 Palestinian prisoners are to be freed in exchange for the eight soldiers. The ICRC spokesman affirmed February 25 that contacts between the PLO and Israel have been taking place for a month under the supervision of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. The ICRC spokesman said that in case of an agreement between Israel and the PLO, the ICRC will supervise the formalities.

According to official statements made last week, the PLO is demanding the release of 2000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, plus the Ansar prisoners and return of documents taken from the Palestinian Research Centre in West Beirut.

Al Fajr has learned that the 2000 Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails and not from South Lebanon fall into five categories:

(1) all women prisoners,

(2) those disabled through torture and long-term service,

(3) those sentenced for long terms who have already served a long time in prison,

(4) non-Palestinian Arab prisoners sentenced for their commitment to the Palestinian cause,

(5) those arrested from the occupied territories should stay in the occupied territories after being released.

Israel is demanding the release of eight soldiers held as POWs by the PLO and three other soldiers held by Syria. Israel also claims that Syria is holding five missing soldiers in the Beqa'a.

JUDGEMENT PASSED WITHOUT TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES

SENTENCES POSTPONED FOR KALANDIA STUDENTS

The Israeli legal advisor in Beit El agreed February 27 to postpone the implementation of sentences against 36 students from Kalandia Vocational Institute. The legal advisor's retreat came after the students' lawyer demanded a freeze of the Ramallah military court's sentences in the Israeli High Court because the military "did not listen to the defence eyewitnesses." The Israeli legal advisor allowed defense attorney Muhammad Na'amneh to apply to West Bank military commander for a retrial.

On February 17 the military court fined 36 students from Gaza, Jerusalem and various West Bank towns between IS25,000 and 75,000 after convicting them of demonstrating and stoning military vehicles. The trials came out of incidents at Kalandia on February 14. At 7:30 am the Israeli soldiers began a two hour campaign of search and arrest. In the Kalandia Institute 145 students were held. After an all-day interrogation, 116 were taken to Fara'a detention centre, near Jenin. The other remained at Ramallah prison.

The next day, 15 students from Ramallah jail and 21 at Fara'a detention were charged with stoning military vehicles and demonstrating on the occasion of the convention the Palestine National Council in Algiers.

After hearing the accusations, Judge Amnon Streshnouq postponed the court hearing until February 17 to hear defence witnesses.

Streshnouq told the court secretary to summon eyewitnesses. He took the secretary and got the names of two teachers at the Kalandia Institute. On February 17, however, Judge Colonel Ami Burkan sentenced the 36 students without hearing the witnesses.

When Ibrahim Khaled Hussein Nasir, a Fara'a camp detainee who studies at the Kalandia Institute, denied the charges, Judge Burkan sentenced him to pay IS75,000 and told the other accused they would be heavily sentenced if they denied the charges.

Muhammad Na'amneh said, "As the result of his threats, 15 students pleaded guilty and were fined IS 25,000 to 30,000."

In his appeal to the High Court, Muhammad Na'amneh demanded a retrial because "a legal violation has been committed," since the Kalandia yard where the students were arrested is in Jerusalem and since the military court does not have the authority to sentence students from Jerusalem or Gaza Strip. He also notes that the military court in Ramallah violated the rules of natural justice by not enabling the accused people to defend themselves or notify their parents about the court session within 48 hours of their arrest. Khadr Yousef Roubi from Shuafat camp in the Jerusalem district, who was fined IS50,000 for demonstrating and stoning the Israeli military vehicles, told *Al Fajr*, "I was with 13 students in the classroom, when two soldiers broke in and arrested us. Nine of 13 students (I am one of them) were convicted because the two soldiers said that they saw us stoning them."

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 148, March 4, 1983:

Number of original articles submitted to censor	27
Number of articles totally censored out	13
Number of articles mutilated beyond use	2
Number of articles lost at censor office	1
Number of articles partially censored but used	2
Number of articles passed	9

REPORTS OF INFIGHTING AND MISUSE OF FUNDS

Hebron Village League Head Fired By 'Civil Administration'

Following weeks of rising tension inside the Village Leagues, Israel's new head of the 'civil administration' in the West Bank fired Mohammad Nasser, February 28. Israeli sources intimated that Nasser, latterly headed of the Village League in Hebron, was ousted for misuse of funds and weapons issued to he and his supporters. Nasser has accused the Israelis, and new League chief Jamil Amla, of disarming him and his followers.

Nasser was called to Beit El to be told of his dismissal. 'Civil Administrator' Shlomo Ilya informed him of the decision to dismiss him and ordered his officers to have nothing to do with the league official. There followed a rapid downgrading in Nasser's status. According to reports in the Israeli government paper, *Al Anba*, Nasser was summoned the next day to Hebron military headquarters and was kept waiting outside for three hours. Following a protest meeting of his supporters at Hebron Village League headquarters, Nasser announced that the 'civil administration' had "no right to interfere in the affairs of the Leagues." He dispatched a telegramme to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Defence Minister Moshe Arens.

Shortly afterwards, however, the office was closed for two weeks by the military authorities and Nasser's keys were confiscated. Nasser says that the Israelis have established his rival in office by giving him IS1,290,000 and a new bank account to buy support in the region.

The Israeli press has also alleged that former advisor on Arab affairs to the military occupation authorities and the 'civil administration', and past-acting head of the 'civil administration', Yigal Karmon, is coordinating Nasser's campaign to remain in office. Karmon has denied this.

Speculation is rife as to the reasons behind the League coup. It is known that Amla, previously Nasser's deputy, ordered all Nasser's followers out of the office during the latter's visit to the US recently. He also disarmed some of Nasser's followers. *Al Anba* said the disarming of Nasser's troops was to "maintain and check weapons." It is known that Amla considered Nasser a liability to the Leagues — not being a villager and having no real *hamula* (clan) support.

Other rumours suggest that Nasser was bucking the leadership of Mustafa Dudeen, now head of the so-called Federation of Village Leagues. Ilya is believed to want local League chiefs to operate as regional agents and leave general involvement in politics to Dudeen. Nasser was recently behind a rapidly aborted plan to establish a 'peace party' in the West Bank. His party and pro-Israel platform were disolved by the 'civil administration'.

With Nasser fighting for his political existence the 'civil administration' has chosen this time to reopen the files of Daoud Attawneh. Attawneh, a Beit Kahil, Hebron district teacher, was shot dead by Village Leaguers in June 1982, after he stopped them beating up a woman. The police file was closed after the military intervened and took over investigations.

League heads met at Beit El, March 3, and endorsed Ilya's moves.

Nasor Ja'abari and his daughter Alia pointing to where Israeli settlers bullets hit their house. Alia was injured as a result of the shooting/JN

PRIOR TO LAND CONFISCATION ORDER

HISTADRUT CONSTRUCTS ON ARAB LAND NEAR BETHLEHEM

Three Israeli bulldozers moved onto land at Himoum Beqia'ah belonging to members of the Sawahreh clan in the Bethlehem district, February 27, before any land confiscation orders were issued. The work was discovered when six members of the *ad hoc* Sawahreh Committee for Land Defence (CLD) went to the area and saw 10 workers, three bulldozers, and piles of cement sacks and other construction materials on a 20 dunum site which belongs to the clan. The CLD members, accompanied by lawyer Muhammad Ewesat , tried to talk to the Israeli bosses but they refused to reveal anything about their plans for the site. The Israelis said they work for the Histadrut-owned Solel Boneh construction company and Mekorot, the state water company. The CLD said the workers seemed to be excavating foundations for buildings.

Muhammad Ewasat told *Al Fajr* that the landowners have not received any notification from authorities about confiscation of this area.

The land of Himoum Beqia'ah, thousands of dunums in all, has been owned by five of the 11 Sawahreh clans for generations. "The owners have Ottoman and British *tabu* (ownership) certification of property," said Ewesat .

Israeli authorities officially confiscated 1500 dunums of Sawahreh land on November 17.

On January 22, an official from the land registration department in Ramallah notified Ali Ayed, a local mukhtar, that his land was grabbed and handed him an official order.

Muhammad Ewesat was later able to get a map of the areas concerned. "The reason for the confiscation," said Ewesat , "is for military purposes."

Earlier, another mukhtar, Ahmad Abu Ahmad, was notified of a separate 350 dunum grab in the Khmoum area. This confiscation has not yet received court sanction.

The 11 Sawahreh clans own all the land between the Dead Sea and the outskirts of Bethlehem. The 10,000 residents have been prevented from grazing sheep on their pastures since 1967.

AFTER ISRAEL TV REPORT

Ramallah Village League Leaders Charged with Assault

Following an investigation by an Israel TV reporter, leaders of the Ramallah Village League are going to be charged with aggravated assault, illegal arrest and illegal interrogation. The charges follow incidents which occurred last August involving residents of Qatanah and Biddo villages. Jamil Khatib, the head of Ramallah Village League, his brother Riad and several other associates of the Village League are to be charged this week, according to a senior police officer.

Gil Sadan, the Israel TV West Bank reporter whose report on incidents involving the Leagues prompted police action, told *Al Fajr* that a charge sheet has not yet been filed but that a senior police officer told him, February 26, that the police will definitely be taking action against the League.

This move follows a TV report last October on complaints from six residents in Qatanah and Biddo villages in the Ramallah district. They had filed complaints in late August that the Village Leaguers detained, severely beat and interrogated them.

One of the six, Fahmi Ata Khader from Biddo, a labourer in construction, says he was taken from his home at 11:00 pm one August night in a military jeep and beaten up. After two hours of beating, Fahmi Khader was released suffering from several injuries. He was hospitalised for eight days at Hadassa hospital, West Jerusalem, after the assault.

Musa al-Sus had his teeth knocked out when he and his neighbour from Qatanah were taken at night to Jamil Khatib's house. "When Musa al-Sus' neighbour asked, 'Why are you beating us?' they were forced to turn their faces to the wall and raise their hands. Then they were beaten up by Jamil Khatib and his associates," Gil Sadan says.

Sadan told *Al Fajr* that the renewed investigation of complaints came after his story on Israeli TV last October. He told *Al Fajr* that the Leaguers assaulted the six residents because they had spoken against them.

The original police file was closed after the 'civil administration' branch of the military occupation — which created the Leagues — pressured the police.

"Fahmi Ata Khader made *sulha* (reconciliation) with Jamil Khatib, but Musa Sus and his neighbour refused. The civil administration officials are not happy with the reopening of the file," Sadan added. "If you ask them, they will demand the police close the file."

Shorts

LAND CONFERENCE

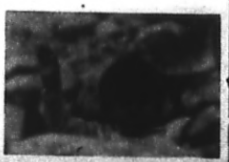
The Committee for the Defence of Arab Land organised a conference to coordinate defence of Galilee and the Triangle land in Shafa 'Amr, February 26. Over 2000 participated in the meeting attended by five members of Knesset, 26 heads of Arab local councils, popular delegations from 42 Arab villages and towns and representatives of Israeli democratic forces.

COUNCILLOR TOWN ARRESTED

Jamil Othman, a member of Jericho municipality, was placed under town arrest for six months. Othman has to sign at the local police station daily. No reason was given for the town arrest. Jamil Othman is a lawyer and lives in Bethany.

FREE AT LAST

The Israeli authorities lifted the town arrest order on Wahid Hamdullah, the deposed mayor of Anabta. He has been under administrative detention for 12 months since March 1982. On the day of his release the British counsul visited him to discuss the Middle East conflict.



RESPONSE TO PNC RESOLUTIONS

OT, ARAB WORLD, AND ISRAEL REACT

The resolutions of the 16th session of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) were welcomed in the occupied territories. Reacting to the resolutions, most public figures said the Palestinian national movement had emerged from the council more unified, and committed to the achievement of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

In the Arab world, reactions were muted. The Arab media, generally controlled by the regimes, gave little coverage of the resolutions.

Occupied Territories

Dr. Haidar Abd al-Shafi, director of the Red Crescent Society in the Gaza Strip, described the PNC resolutions as satisfying the aspirations of the Palestinian people. "They rejected the Reagan plan, reaffirmed the legitimacy of the PLO leadership, and called for building up internal power. All these are at the core of the Palestinian people's demands," he said.

Samiha Khalil, head of the Family Rehabilitation Society in al-Bireh, said the PNC was a disappointment to those who hoped for a split within the Palestinian national movement.

The elected mayor of Nablus, Bassam Shaka'a, said that the PNC decisions serve to strengthen the commitment to the struggle for the Palestinian national rights. Shaka'a called on the Palestinians of the occupied territories to give full backing to PNC resolutions, in order to achieve greater national unity.

George Hazboun, chairman of the Public Institutions Workers Union in Bethlehem, remarked that the 16th PNC session has "put an end to the attempts to influence the PLO to accept plans which do not meet Palestinian national rights. I think that everyone who supports Palestinian national unity should stick to these resolutions."

Elias Freij, mayor of Bethlehem, said that the PNC did not close the door in the face of peace solutions. He praised the democratic discussions in the session and called on the Palestinian leaders to "save the land."

Rashad Shawwa, the deposed mayor of Gaza, refused to comment to *Al Fajr*.

Arab World

Shadhli Qulaibi, secretary general of the Arab League, described the PNC resolutions as "important because they complete what the Arab summit in Fez had achieved." Speaking at the 34th session of the Arab Social and Economic Council in Tunis, Qulaibi said that those resolutions are eligible to narrow the power gap between Israel and the Arab world. "That's why the PNC had insisted on the military option alongside the political ones," he affirmed.

Algerian President Chadli Ben Jadid praised the Palestinian resolutions, especially their role in strengthening national unity.

Jordan's media and leading statesmen exploited every opporunity to encourage division within the Palestinian ranks, but were silent when the PNC resolutions were announced. Political observers note that the silence in Jordan is a result of their disappointment in the PNC.

Israeli Reactions

Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin sounded an outright rejection of the PNC resolutions, even before they were published. While ignoring the PNC meeting, Begin said the Palestinian national charter was "a denial of rights to the Jews," and his "autonomy plan", he described as "humane and a recognition of the rights of the Arabs in *Eretz Israel*."

The Israeli Communist Party (Rakah) issued a statement praising the PNC resolutions. The statement described them as "positive", and that they could "contribute to achieving peace in the Middle East."

Yossi Sarid, a Labour Party MK, requested that the Knesset schedule a discussion of the PNC resolutions. He reportedly urged the Knesset to consider them, on the grounds that they represent a trend within the PLO to follow the political option in order to find a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Israeli Journalists Boycott Ansar Conference

In an unprecedented act of self-censorship, Israeli journalists boycotted a press conference organised by the Committee Against the War in Lebanon (CAWL), February 24, on instructions from the Jerusalem branch of the Israeli Journalists Association.

The Israeli journalists' step was politically motivated, and lacks any reasonable explanation, participants in the conference charged. The conference revealed new information about the treatment of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in Ansar camp and other detention facilities.

From the beginning, the CAWL press conference, held at the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem, was controversial. Two days before it was held, the Committee spokeswoman, Raya Rotem, contacted the director of the Jerusalem branch of the Israeli Journalists Association, Gabi Bron, asking him to invite member journalists to attend. Bron informed the Committee spokeswoman that the press conference must be held in the Government press office in Beit Agron, otherwise, his members would be "unable to attend." Bron, who writes for Israeli daily *Yediot Ahronot* reportedly told Rotem that, according to the Association's internal rules, Israeli journalists are banned from attending press conferences, outside of Beit Agron, unless the organisers of the press conference obtain a special permit from the Association Council.

Bron also told Rotem that he would punish any journalist who violated regulations. Bron confirmed details of Rotem's report to *Al Fajr*.

The committee spokeswoman said she ignored the threat as time was running out, and everything had been arranged. She contacted several West Bank correspondents personally. *Haaretz's* Zvi Bar'el, David Richardson of *The Jerusalem Post*, Arie Gos of Israeli Radio, and Gil Sadam of Israel TV said they would attend, if they could.

Raya Rotem told *Al Fajr* that the conference was "too important to cancel, and it was impossible to change the place," as they had the schedule prepared.

"They would not give us a permit anyway," Rotem told *Al Fajr*.

After the conference, which was not attended by any Israeli journalist, David Richardson said that he was unable to attend because he was busy preparing for Friday's special issue. Zvi Bar'el also said that he was unable to make it because he was busy. He denied that he was contacted by the Association's director, and advised not to attend. "Even if they told me not to attend, I would not abide by that."

David Mandel, a free lance journalist, told *Al Fajr* that when he went to Beit Agron, believing that the conference was being held there, he was told that it was cancelled. Other journalists were unavailable for comment. Nevertheless, the fact that no Israeli journalist attended the conference indicates that a boycott decision was taken.

Raya Rotem charged that the Israeli Journalists Association's decision is political. She explained that Ansar prison is one aspect of the war, and that they (Israeli journalists) do not want to expose the facts about it to the public. "Israeli coverage of (CAWL) demonstration has been very minimal in contrast to coverageof equally sizedPeace Now demonstrations," she said.

WELCOME!

Women's Work Committees In the Occupied Territories

The higher committee of the Women's Work Committees in the occupied territories cordially invites you to attend the fourth annual bazaar at 12:00 noon, Friday, March 4 in the offices of the Hotel, Restaurant and Cafe Union in Jerusalem, al-Zahra Street. The bazaar will run from March 4-8, 10 am to 5 pm daily.

You are also invited to attend these International Women's Day activities:

Saturday, March 5: lecture on the problems of the Palestinian woman in the rural areas;

Sunday, March 6: lecture on the working Palestinian woman;

Monday March 7: lecture on the foundation and role of Palestinian charitable societies;

Tuesday, March 8: festival of Palestinian folk song;

Wednesday, March 9: lecture on public health for women;

Thursday, March 10: lecture on Palestinian women's participation in literacy centres

Lectures will be held at 3 pm, at the HRCU offices.

AT THE KHALDEH TALKS

Lebanon, Israel Trade Sharp Criticism

The US-Israel-Lebanon talks are still stalemated after the 18th round of talks at Khaldeh, Lebanon, this week.

Meanwhile, the military situation in both the Beqa'a Valley, and South Lebanon remain unchanged. At the south Beirut talks, the Lebanese and Israeli delegates discussed security arrangements and future relations, for four hours, March 1. No progress was announced. At the end of the day the Lebanese team read a statement to the press accusing Israel of intransigence on its demand for a peace agreement against Lebanon's will.

The Lebanese officials at the talks were quoted by Israeli newsapers as saying that Lebanon is not ready to risk its ties with the Arab world in favour of an agreement with Israel.

Israel criticized Lebanon as "inauthentic in her pursuit of a detailed and comprehensive agreement." David Kimche, chief Israeli negotiator, charged that Lebanon is trying to empty the principles on the agenda of their practical meaning. He reiterated Israel's insistence on maintaining military bases in South Lebanon, in the form of early warning stations. He also rejected the idea of deploying UNIFIL or multi-national forces in the 45 kilometer zone which Israel is demanding control over.

Kimche's sharpest attack came in reaction to Lebanese proposals conveyed by US envoy Philip Habib on February 28, which call for an interim agreement in exchange for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. According to Habib's message, several months after withdrawal, negotations on a full agreement would start. Israel's foreign minister Yitzhak Shamir was quoted as telling Habib that Israel wants a full agreement with Lebanon, and they don't care if the Gemayel government call it an "interim agreement."

Land Mine In Naqab Kills Five, Injures Four

Five men of the Azazmeh Beduin tribe were killed and another four injured, February 25, when two Peugeot vans drove over two mines in a military area in the Naqab.

An Israeli military spokesman reported that the first explosion killed three men and injured another two of the eight Beduin riding in the vehicle. The second explosion killed two and wounded two.

Faraj Abu Issa, 25, reported that after the first blast one of his relatives came and asked for help with the wounded. He and three others took a car and on the way to the site of the incident their car ran over a second charge.

An Israeli journalist reported that the incident might be an act of revenge between the Beduin and the green patrols.

. . . . . .

The Jerusalem Post reported, February 27, that . . . . put the mines in that area.

The Azazmeh tribe lives 20 kilometers south of Beer Sheba. Two of those killed had worked in the Israeli army as trackers.

The Dawn
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This Editorial was censored by Israel. Published U.S. Edition. We are Thankful that we have Freedom of Press in The U.S.A.

State Terrorism Condemned

One of the important resolutions passed at the Palestine National Council meeting last week was the condemnation of "official and organised" terror committed against the Palestinian people. This week the Palestinian population in the occupied territories began to feel the clammy air which precedes a storm. In Hebron, the wave of terror was obvious: A family gathering after dinner became the target of settler's fire; a bomb was timed to explode in a mosque at noon prayers; settlers shot into a taxi; three children were kidnapped — one was found by Israeli police, held in a nearby settlement and later released with no charges, the other two were handed by the settlers to the Israeli military authorities.

A terror campaign against Palestinian civilians is now underway. The common factor in all "theatres of operation" is the Israeli army. In the West Bank, officially armed settlers are permitted to stone cars while troops curfew nearby camps; Kiryat Arba 'residents', called "sole lunatics", open fire at will. An investigation into the bombing of the mosque is announced while a previous "investigation" into a similar bombing of a local school gathers dust.

At the same time in Lebanon the same troops claim they "cannot control" the Phalangist hit-squads or Saad Haddad's militias, both of which are armed by Israel. In the occupied territories — the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza, Golan and Lebanon — Israel is the occupying power and therefore legally responsible for the physical safety of the civilian population. Any terrorism that occurs there against the Palestinian people and others must be regarded as state terrorism.

These acts will not terrify the Palestinians and will not force them to abandon their rights nor the means to achieve these rights.

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THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND THE INTERNATIONAL STAND

by Ali Khalili

Since its foundation in 1964, the PLO has made great efforts in political work in the international arena. This effort began to develop and increase after 1967, to aquire in 1974 a new line represented in the clear decision of the PNC that year, calling for positive participation in Arab-European dialogue.

Until that time, 1974, Palestinian political movement in the international field was aimed at intense relations and contacts with the socialist bloc countries headed by the Soviet Union, which are friendly and supportive of Palestinian national rights, as well as with Islamic countries and non-aligned countries and African and Latin American countries in addition to relations with national liberation movements and progressive parties in all countries.

Since 1974, Palestinian diplomacy has begun to penetrate Western Europe, through some international organisations, such as the World Parliamentary Union and the European Common Market. Palestinian diplomacy has developed in this field and direct dialogue has been established between the PLO and some European governments, enabling the PLO, through this dialogue, to establish full or semi-full diplomatic relations with some of these governments and states. Thus some political bureaux have been opened, as well as information offices in the capitals of these Western European countries.

The political outlook of the PLO has been clear in widening its new diplomatic movement in the countries of Western Europe and Japan in addition to its firm and deep-rooted relations with the countries of the socialist bloc and non-aligned and Islamic and African and Latin American countries. It is an outlook springing from the serious attempt to distinguish the stands of Europe and Japan from that of America. The American official stand is directly hostile to the Palestinian people, their legitimate leadership, the PLO, and their cause. If the European countries and Japan have, until now, been unable to strengthen their ability of actual discrimination in political movement, Palestinian diplomacy tries, for its part, to increase its efforts to strengthen and develop this ability in the direction of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The recent resolutions of the PNC affirm that this political direction is correct and throw more light on the exact details of this international political work. These resolutions confirm the importance of the international stand and the decisive move to develop it in order to reach a comprehensive and just peace in the region. Whereas one of the resolutions concentrated on evaluating and supporting the Brezhnev plan issued in 1980 which asserts the firm national rights of the Palestinian people, other resolutions considered the Reagan plan as denying these rights and thus rejected it.

Because the PNC realises the great importance of international diplomatic work, it referred to the forthcoming international conference to be held next summer based on a decision of the General Assembly and called for more support and backing of the conference.

Thus Palestinian diplomacy considers the international stand to be strategic in the work to bring about a just and comprehensive solution in the region. It is a stand clarified in exact and complete detail in the resolutions of the 16th session of the PNC dealing with the international arena, starting with the socialist bloc headed by the Soviet Union, then the non-aligned countries, the Islamic countries, African and Latin American countries, and, in the fourth article, Western Europe and Japan. All these countries, in various ways and forms, constitute the international work arena for Palestinian diplomacy. Perhaps the most important in all this is the awareness of the PLO of the differences and divergences between these countries and thus of the necessity of diplomatic activity to reach every group and to hold a dialogue with them on the basis of understanding of Palestinian national rights, peace in the area and in the whole world.

If this international community constitutes an arena for political work or diplomatic confrontation, the PNC was clear in its resolutions that American imperialism stands at the head of the camp hostile to the Palestinian cause and regarded confrontation of it, alongside confronting racism and Zionism, as the other face of Palestinian political and diplomatic action in the international field.

However, this revolutionary diplomacy is not limited to dealing with countries and governments, but includes movements and all progressive and democratic forces in Western Europe and in various capitalist countries. It is a very clear starting point, showing PLO interest in the rights of all peoples to independence and freedom on one hand, and at the same time condemning terrorism and state terrorism, especially that of the US and Israel.

The PNC resolutions concerning the international situation were very clear, and were supportive of the international role participating effectively to create an opportunity for a comprehensive and lasting peace.

If US imperialism, at the present stage and through the gaps manufactured by Arab reaction in the region, tries to impose its hostile control on the peoples of the area through its main base, Israel, then the PLO's rejection of the Reagan plan means a direct blow to this hostile attempt.

The Reagan plan has been thwarted because the PLO is not afraid of American terrorism but confronts it with awareness, with conscious international participation and with the determination to create a dialogue with all forces and countries which can distinguish their stand outside the American framework and outside the hostile programmes and plans in the region.

It is evident that this serious and responsible outlook which the PLO has on the importance of the international stand means that the PLO itself moves in a wide circle of friends throughout the world and with a basic and honest will to make peace, not only in the Middle East but in the whole world.

OPINION

Reaction to PNC Resolutions in the West Bank and Gaza

Al Fajr collected comments from prominent Palestinians in the occupied territories on the PNC resolutions. Haidar Abd al-Shafi, chairman of the Palestinian Red Crescent in Gaza; Ibrahim Dakkak, chairman of the Association of Professional Trade Unions and Ma'moun Sayyed, well-known journalist, responded to different parts of the resolutions. Our staff also conducted an interview with a visiting Palestinian professor, an expert on US attitudes to the Palestinian question.

COUNCIL FOILS AMERICAN POWER INTERESTS

by Ibrahim Dakkak

Mr Shultz, the American secretary of state, testifying before the Senate appropriations sub-committee on foreign operations, stated a few days ago that the placement of SAM-5 missiles in Syria "is a sobering and destabilising event in the Middle East." Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam, for his part, told *The Wall Street Journal* on Monday February 28, 1983, that Israel would respond to any attempt to destroy the missiles "even risking a super-power confrontation." Shultz's remarks and the response of the Syrian minister for foreign affairs echo the crisis the Israeli campaign against Lebanon has created.

It has been viewed by US policy makers, since Egyptian President Anwar Sadat changed horses after 1973, that two major obstacles stand in the way of establishing a *Pax Americana* in the region. These were Syria and the PLO.

The joint and concerted efforts of both foiled the immediate implementation of the Camp David accords in the area and helped the isolation of Sadat. The developing situation caused instability in the region and uncertainty for the American schemes in the area. The American threat, which was successful in breaking the ground for a possible strategic pact in the Middle East, echoed a failure in pursuing its course in Afghanistan and Iran. It reverberated a further set back in tempting Syria and the PLO to follow the course of Sadat, thus rendering the potential strategic alliance partially inoperative.

The parties to the new proposed alliance, among the oil rich Arab countries in the Gulf, in their endeavour to arrange the initial affairs of the Arab world to render it more receptive to the new drive, resorted to deepening the dependency of the confrontation states, the PLO and the people of the occupied territories on their financial aid.

The leverage developed, though effective and deep, fell short of offsetting the generated resistance of the Palestinians to the American-backed Israeli aggression against them. It failed also to act counter to Muslim feelings when the Palestinians reacted against Israeli desecration of holy places. The UN endorsement of Palestinian national rights posed an additional constraint.

The Israeli campaign against Lebanon, therefore constituted the required surgery to eliminate the PLO radicals from the conflict and to neutralise the Syrian role. Though the campaign fell short of achieving the political aims the US and Israel aspired to accomplish, it failed also to re-orient the PLO policy to a compromising attitude and to trigger a confrontation between Syria and the PLO.

The PNC, aware of the situation and the imbalance produced by the war in Lebanon, called in the course of commending the Fez resolutions, for the improvement of "the balance of power to suit the struggle for the (attainment) of Arab and Palestinian rights." It complemented the call by describing the relations with Syria as "depending on the resolutions adopted at consecutive sessions of the PNC which stressed the importance of strategic relations between the PLO and Syria." It further added that, "the PLO and Syria form the frontline confrontation with the common danger."

To emphasise its call, the PNC commissioned the executive committee of the PLO to start talks with the different members of the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front with the purpose of reviving its activities. While the PNC was clear in calling for sounder relations with Syria and the members of the Front, relations with Egypt and Jordan were specifically restricted to the relations with the peoples of those two countries.

To further the emphasis on the shape of the proposed alignment, the PNC expressed the "council's appreciation of the position of the socialist countries with respect to to our people's just cause as stressed in the Prague communique on the situation in the Middle East issued on January 3, 1983." It further commended "with appreciation and support, the plan of President Brezhnev issued on September 16, 1980, and which emphasised the nationsinalinational rights of the Palestinian people . . . "

The PNC, in contrast, called for "struggle against American imperialism and its policies, being the leader of the camp hostile to our just cause and the causes of struggling people." Furthermore, the council considered that the "Reagan initiative fails to answer, in its course and content, the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people . . . " The council in its concluding remark on the initiative states that the intitiative failed to be "a sound basis for a just and durable solution to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Zionist conflict."

The PNC, therefore, states its objections clearly. It called for the reversal of the balance of power in the area through an alignment with Syria, the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front, the socialist countries and the Soviet Union. The council further refused to issue a mandate for King Hussein to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, thus circumventing the hope of the US for an immediate breakthrough from its present impasse.

The course for the executive committee is set without ambiguity and the need is urgent for mending fences with Syria and the Steadfastness Front.

PNC LEAVES REAGAN, HUSSEIN WAITING IN THE WINGS

by Al Fajr Staff

Perhaps the people most disappointed with the resolutions of the recent Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers are the Americans. They had been promised by their media the immediate demise of the PLO and expected warring factions to split the organisations as 'moderates' fought to get the 'go ahead' for King Hussein to take over the role of representative of the Palestinian people. There must have been puzzled looks in Washington when news got through that the PLO had, if anything, come out of Algiers more united than when it went in.

A professor who has specialised in US attitudes to the Palestinian question says that after the PNC, Reagan is now reduced to waiting for an answer from a bemused King Hussein. Hussein, the expert says, is probably the most unhappy man. He is expected now to come under heavy pressure from the US to go ahead with dialogue with Israel with only a "flashing red light from the PLO." The US, he expects, will interpret the resolutions in the most positive light as not rejecting Hussein-Reagan talks — thus increasing pressure on the monarch.

With hardly any chance of getting the state the Palestinians are demanding from Reagan, Hussein is likely to ask for an extension of "soon". Reagan has said that he wants an answer "soon", but Hussein is going to have to go through a complete rethink. The only way open to the king if he wants to go anywhere is to start his own political offensive on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and in the Arab states. "He will attempt to dilute the Rabat (1974) Arab League resolutions. He'll also try to mobilise and cultivate small pro-Jordanian factions in the West Bank and encourage them to break away from the PLO or form a group in open support of him to give him some kind of mandate."

The expert does not expect the king or the Americans to openly cultivate the Village Leagues unless they disarm. "But there are groups of traditional people who broke with or never joined the Village Leagues because the king was against them," he said. "I expect the current relations between the PLO and the Jordanians to be transitional and conflict over basic issues to rise. This phase will end."

All of this begs the question: what's in the Reagan initiative for Hussein? The professor explains that the only thing that will get Hussein involved is fear for his kingdom. "He's afraid Israel will try to solve the Palestinian problem in the same way it solved the Lebanon problem: by invading Jordan and settting up a Village League-type administration like that of the Gemayels. To head off this eventuality, it is now essential that he find any solution to the Palestinian question."

The Reagan plan, as well as being the only game in town, offers the king the opportunity to choose whatever regime he wants for the West Bank. "King Hussein's soldiers will replace the institution of the Israeli army in shooting down demonstrators. Palestinian responsibility will be reduced to sweeping the streets and keeping the sewer system functioning."

Looking at the US record over past plans, our visiting professor predicted that Reagan's latest will be watered down until it becomes meaningless. "In the current political configuration of the region it is unlikely that the US will be able to force Israel to give up the settlements — the only positive aspect of his initiative."

The picture he paints is of a situation in which it would appear that Jordan lost the battle for Beirut with the PLO coming out as victor. "Politically, the PLO has won the battle and all the Arab states lost, with Jordan and Syria at the top of the list."

The expert expects the Jordanians to move regardless of the mess that would cause, and that any initiative from the Jordanians would get a "not negative" reaction from the Israelis. "I think Israel would like to enter some kind of accord with King Hussein, along the lines of Begin's perceptions of Camp David and what autonomy means," he says. In any talks Hussein would be on his own, the professor asserts. "Barring any Arab economic and political pressure on Reagan, he will retreat in the face of Israeli objections to his plans and pressure to table them."

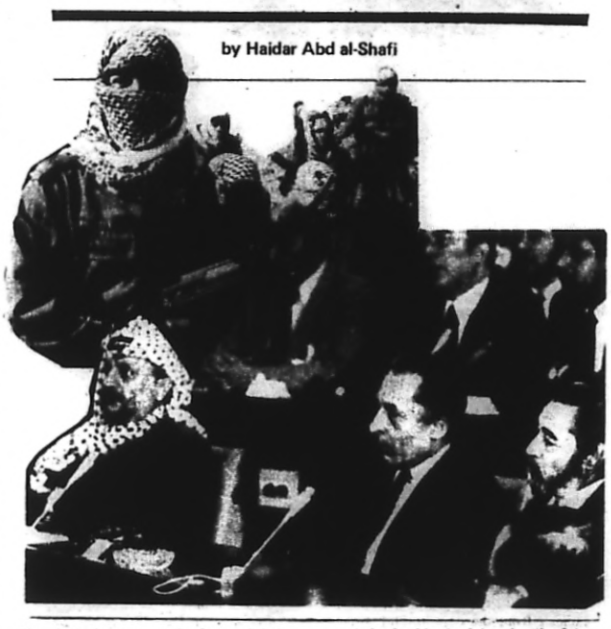
The Palestinian response to Western diplomatic maneuvering is likely to be a diplomatic offensive. "I think there will be increasing diplomatic pressure on the Arab states, particularly the oil rich ones, as well as an intensification of diplomatic lobbying in Europe, urging those states to meet their responsibilities on this issue and pointing out to them that they have major interests in the region.

"The PNC has solidified and given strength to the Palestinian position diplomatically and regionally, both at the Arab and international levels. Disintegration has not occurred and the problems between the PLO and Libya and Syria were discussed and will be dealt with. The PLO has come out of the session more united and stronger."

OPINION

AFTER LEBANON, PNC AFFIRMS MILITARY AND POLITICAL STRUGGLE

by Haidar Abd al-Shafi



To be able to pass judgement on the significance and worth of the Palestine National Council resolutions at the last session, one has to consider the general atmosphere and the course of events since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon until the convening of the Council. It has become abundantly clear that the Israeli invasion was not a hurriedly decided and unplanned action but, quite the contrary, that it was pondered and carefully thought out maybe for months or years. Its immediate objective was the destruction of the main obstacle to imperialist-Zionist designs in the Middle East, namely, the Palestinian movement led by the PLO.

It was hoped that by destroying the military structure of the PLO and evicting the Palestinian fighters from Lebanon with a show of Israeli military might, the stage would be set for Palestinian capitulation to American-Israeli wishes. The task was accomplished, but not in the manner that the aggressors hoped for. There was no rout, and the Israelis suffered serious losses. The Palestinian fighters with their Lebanese brothers-in-arms withstood the worst onslaught in the history of the Arab-Israeli confrontation.

They finally abandoned their positions in West Beirut out of respect for human considerations and on the strength of guarantees and pledges by the American government, through its mediator, for the security of civilian Palestinians left behind. But those pledges were not honoured, as brutal events later on showed, The Palestinian steadfastness in Beirut showed three things:

The reality of the very much inflated military image of Israel: the Palestinian will to fight did much to modify this picture.

It exposed the real stand of most of the Arab regimes towards the Palestinian cause — varying from vacillation and apathy down to insincerity and accommodation of the aggressors.

It uncovered the brutal and callous character of the Israeli command in its indifference to an unprecedented scale of physical destruction and human suffering involving civilians (including women, children and old people); a fact which evoked international disgust and denunciation even by Israel's friends and in quarters normally sympathetic to Israel.

Nevertheless the aggressors lost no time in trying to reap the fruits of their aggression with respect to the Palestinian issue. Immediately after the start of the war they engaged in a publicity campaign aimed at intimidating and disheartening the Palestinian people, particularly in the occupied territories, in the hope that they would renounce their allegiance to the PLO and accept American-Israeli plans. At an early time in the context of this campaign, President Reagan announced his initiative that came to be known as the Reagan plan. Basically it did not add anything to what was stipulated in the Camp David framework.

The plan was hailed with enthusiasm by Western circles and some of the Arab regimes which exerted pressure on Palestinians to accept it. The plan does not assert any definite position or offer anything tangible. It only calls for negotiations between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians, excluding their legitimate leadership, to determine the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in the hope that Israel will stop its settlement programme, and withdraw from parts of the occupied territories which will remain under Jordanian tutelage.

How can the Palestinians subscribe to such a plan that denies their legitimate leadership and their unity of purpose and destiny in a situation in which any meaningful outcome of any negotiations is being pre-empted by Israeli practises? Nevertheless, the pressure on the Palestinians went on via Western circles and the Arab friends of America. Some Palestinian circles seized upon the atmosphere of general frustration and the repeated visits of (PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat) Abu Ammar to Jordan to call on the PLO to to initiate an agreement with Jordan, which in essence meant departure from the Palestinian position.

They were interpreting Arafat's visits according to their own wishes. So they became quite vocal in expressing their capitulative views depicting the scene as that of impending disaster and calling for 'saving what can be saved' through King Hussein's mediation. They envisaged a schism in the PLO leadership, and that democracy called for supporting the head of the majority. Such was the climate on the eve of the convening of the National Council.

The PNC addressed itself to all important and relevant issues in a balanced and comprehensive manner. The all important issue of national unity was affirmed and its reality was reflected in the course of the deliberations and in the final resolutions.

Aside from reaffirming the Palestinians' innate rights and rejecting any attempt to encroach on Palestinian free choice, the PNC charted a future course down two main channels:

1. The military struggle necessitated by Israeli intransigence. This was indicated by the Council to its friends and enemies in the Arab world and outside. It defined the criteria for its relations with the Arab governments. It indicated the special relationship with Jordan that must be regulated in the context of respect for Palestinians' basic rights and the cooperation of the two sovereign states in the future. It stressed the special strategic relationship with Syria. It hailed, and called for the strengthening of, the bonds of friendship with the Soviet Union, the socialist countries, the anti-colonial movements and the forces of liberation, democracy and progress the world over.

2. The political struggle where it indicated its openness for just settlement through political and peaceful means. In this it referred to the Fez plans and also to the Brezhnev plan. It denounced international terrorism and reaffirmed its respect for UN principles and resolutions. It also reaffirmed a previous resolution allowing contact with Jewish personalities that recognise Palestinian rights and call for a just solution.

In short the PNC resolutions sum up the expectations of the Palestinian masses that remained sober and did not lose their nerve in the face of tremendous pressure — psychological and otherwise. It was a heartening outcome. The Palestinians will never bow to intimidation, brutality and terrorism.

INDEPENDENCE OF PALESTINIAN DECISION

by Ma'moun Sayyed

The PNC, in its 16th session, took some important decisions dealing with the Palestinian issue and its various developments after the heroic battle of Beirut. On the Palestinian front, it asserted the independence of Palestinian decision, the strengthening of Palestinian national unity and support of Palestinian steadfastness in Palestinian lands. These were the most prominent and influential decisions.

It was clear that consciously or not, some sectors of our Palestinian people wrongly understood (the concept of) the independence of Palestinian decision. This misunderstanding was given prominence by the foreign and Arab media which interpreted it to mean a direct attack on one Arab party for attempting to contain Palestinian decision-making. This aroused the sensitivities of some Arab parties.

The PNC dealt with this problem in a democratic and politically aware fashion, putting everything in its proper perspective. It has deepened the meaning of the independence of the Palestinian decision, both in word and deed, placing it above all attempts to control and contain it, by either Arab or foreign parties.

Palestinians deeply appreciated our representatives' genuine and deep understanding of national unity. This unity was articulated as meaning retaining the centrality of our constitutional institutions. They were considered as important historical achievements which should not be abandoned under any circumstances. They represent the practical and organisational framework which guarantees the Palestinian people's continued support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which truly represents the aspirations of our people to attain their right of return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. There were many unsuccessful attempts to distort this programme by suggesting vague or incomplete reinterpretations of the idea of national unity to throw doubt on its importance or its effectiveness.

The PNC dealt comprehensively with support for steadfast Palestinians on Palestinian soil. The PNC stated its desire to develop this support qualitatively and quantitatively. An important factor in developing this understanding was the prominent, effective and historic role of our people in the occupied homeland. PNC members were well aware of the ideological, strategic and day-to-day details of this situation. It was clear that Palestinian decision makers based their conclusions on an objective analysis of the reality of the Palestinian situation in the occupied homeland.

The PNC . . . *salutes our masses, steadfast in the occupied territories . . .*

salutes our people inside the areas occupied in 1948 . . .

THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE PNC

affirms the need to mobilize the energies of our people outside the occupied land . . .

salutes the souls of the martyrs and fighters . . .

In the land of revolution, redemption and dignity in heroic Algiers, the Palestine National Council held its sixteenth session between 14 and 22 February, 1983. The meeting was attended by Chadhli Ben Jadid, president of the Popular Democratic Republic of Algeria, a number of government officials, and members of the National Liberation Front party and the National Peoples Council.

Our brother, President Chadhli Ben Jadid, gave a speech at the opening session in which he praised the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people. He affirmed the special character and position of the Palestinian revolution within the Arab and international struggle movements. He introduced pictures of the victorious Algerian revolution. He declared that Algeria's people, government and party stand alongside the Palestinian revolution, and their firm support for the struggle of the Palestinian people until they achieve their aims of victory, return and liberation.

Over 120 parliamentary, governmental and party delegations from fraternal Arab countries, countries of the world and national liberation movements also participated in the conference. These delegations contributed with warm speeches in which they expressed their support for the struggle of the people of Palestine, its just cause and its revolution led by brother Yasir Arafat, executive committee chairman and general commander of the Palestinian revolutionary forces.

A great number of Palestinian observer-members attended and participated in the session, representing various Palestinian communities through their activity in the fields of struggle and action. Discussions and lengthy speeches were made about the various items on the agenda of political, structural, military, financial, social and informational natures. Discussions were characterised by an atmosphere of democracy, a high spirit of evaluation of the dangers of the current phase, a feeling of responsibility and concern for the future of the Palestinian revolution.

The speeches and the debates affirmed that holding the PNC meeting in these circumtances acquired a special political importance. The importance is due to the assurance the meeting gives the revolution to continue along the path of armed struggle and political action, in order to achieve its aims in victory and liberation, and the assurance of popular support on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels for the revolution. It is also due to what the discussions and decision expressed: insistence on the unity of the Palestinian revolution and adherence to the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people and the organisational framework for its unified institutions, its revolutionary action and its independent and free will.

All the speeches, including those of Arab and foreign delegations, praised the heroism of our people in confronting the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and throughout the 88 days of the Palestinian-Israeli war, the longest war in the history of the Zionist-Arab conflict. The joint forces fought heroically in the South, in the mountains, and in the Beqa'a, in the face of the Israeli war machine strengthened by the most modern American weapons.

The siege of Beirut was the climax of the war. The defenders stood firm against the Israeli occupation, which had the total support of the US, with a steadfastness rare in modern times. The Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian fighters in this unequal war proved their competence and great courage and thwarted the myth of the undefeatable Zionist army. They proved that victory over the enemy is possible with determination and decisive political resolution. The Zionist massacres in Sabra and Shatila and other places are nothing other than an expression of the fascist Zionist-American conspiracy to terrorise and disperse our people. They also revealed the fact that the racist Zionist entity uses Nazi ways and means.

The PNC looked at the situation in the occupied territories and the great steadfastness shown by the continuous uprisings and heroic military operations against the occupation authorities and against the policy of uprooting our people, forcing them to emigration, colonialism, collective arrests, attacks on holy places and attempts to strike at national institutions. The council expressed its esteem for the national unity of our Palestinian people throughout the occupied territories, in the Galilee, the Triangle, the Naqab, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem and the Golan. This stand expresses the adherence of all our people to our national goals of liberating our occupied land, return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on national soil under the leadership of the PLO. This heroic struggle, both during the war in Lebanon and in the occupied territories, has earned increased support for our people and has strenghtened the position of the PLO on Arab and international levels. It has increased the isolation of the Zionist enemy and has revealed the increasingly hostile role of the US against our people and nation. Despite the US's attempts to invest the results of the war in its plans for achieving hegemony over the region and eliminating our people's national cause, our revolution, which emerged from the battles preserving its power and unity, has affirmed its determination with all the Arab masses, to confront and thwart these attempts. Based on the Palestinian National Charter and the previous political programme of the PNC, the natonal council took the following decisions:

ON THE PALESTINIAN FRONT

1. Palestinian National Unity:

The steadfast and heroic battle in Lebanon and Beirut embodied Palestinian national unity at its best. From the vantage point of the experience of struggle, the PNC affirms the strengthening of national unity between the factions of the revolution within the PLO and affirms the work to advance the structure of organisational relations in all PLO institutions and bodies on the basis of united front work and collective leadership and on the basis of the political and organisational programme approved by the fourteenth session of the PNC.

(A) The Independent National Decision:

The PNC affirms the continued adherence to and protection of independent Palestinian decisions and resistance to all pressures from any side, aimed at influencing this independence.

(B) Armed Palestinian Struggle:

The PNC affirms the need to develop and intensify armed struggle against the Zionist enemy. It also affirms the right of the Palestinian revolutionary forces to carry out military actions against the Zionist enemy from all Arab fronts. It also affirms the need to unite the Palestinian revolutionary forces within the framework of a united Palestinian national liberation army.

2. The Occupied Homeland:

(a) The PNC salutes our masses, steadfast in the occupied territories in the face of occupation, settlement and uprooting. It salutes their total national consensus and adherence to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, *inside* and *outside* (the country).

(b) The PNC denounces and condemns all suspicious American and Israeli attempts to strike at the Palestinian national consensus and calls on the masses to resist and confront them.

(c) The PNC affirms the strengthening of the unity of popular, social and national institutions and unions and affirms the need to work to build and develop a national front *inside*.

(d) The PNC affirms the need to double efforts to strengthen the steadfastness of our people inside the occupied homeland and to offer all the requisites for this steadfastness. Thus, to put an end to enforced emigration and to preserve the land and develop the national economy.

(e) The PNC salutes the steadfastness of our people inside the areas occupied in 1948 and is proud of their struggle and stand, in the face of Zionist racism, to confirm their national identity as an inseparable part of the Palestinian people. The PNC also affirms the need to provide them with all means of support and to strengthen their unity and the unity of their national forces and institutions.

(f) The council sends greetings of esteem and pride to prisoners and detainees in enemy prisons inside the occupied homeland and in South Lebanon.

3. Our People in the Diaspora:

The PNC affirms the need to mobilize the energies of our people in all places outside our occupied land and to strenghten their adherence to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. The council charges the executive committee to work to safeguard their (the Palestinian people's) economic and social interests and to defend their acquired rights and their basic freedom and safety.

Relations with Jewish Forces

Affirming resolution 14 of the political declaration issued by the PNC at its thirteenth session held on December 3, 1977, the PNC calls on the executive committee to study action in this framework, insofar as it is in keeping with and in the interest of the Palestinian cause and the national Palestinian struggle.

ON THE ARAB FRONT

1. Arab Relations:

(a) Deepening the cohesion between the Palestinian revolution and the Arab national liberation movement in the whole Arab nation, in order to actively confront Zionist and imperialist conspiracies and plans of annihilation, especially the Camp David accords and the Reagan plan, and in order to end the Zionist occupation of Arab lands.

(b) Relations between the PLO and Arab states to be built on the following basis:

(i) Commitment to the cause of Arab struggle, headed by the Palestinian cause and struggle for its sake;

(ii) Adherence to the right of the Palestinian people, including the right of return, of self-determination and to establish an independent state under the leadership of the PLO. These are the rights endorsed by Arab summits' resolutions.

(iii) Determination on the unity of representation and national unity and respect for independent Palestinian national decision.

(iv) Rejection of all plans aimed at encroaching upon the right of the PLO as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in any form such as power-of- attorney or agent or participant in the right of representation.

(v) The PNC calls for the strengthening of Arab solidarity on the basis of Arab summit conferences' resolutions and in the light of the above-mentioned principles.

2. Resolutions of the Fez Summit: "The Arab Peace Plan"

The PNC considers the resolutions of the Fez Summit as the minimum for political action by the Arab states which must be complimented by military action in all that it entails, in order to redress the balance of power in favour of the struggle and Arab and Palestinian rights.

The council affirms that its understanding of these resolutions does not contradict commitment to the political programme of the PNC resolutions.

3. Jordan

(i) Affirmation of the special and distinctive relations linking the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. Affirmation of the need to work to develop this harmony and the national interest of the two peoples and the Arab nation to attain the firm national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

(ii) Adherence to the resolutions of the PNC concerning relations with Jordan, starting with the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, *inside* and *outside* the occupied territories.

The PNC sees future relations with Jordan developing on the basis of a confederation between two independent states.

4. Lebanon

(i) Strengthening relations with the Lebanese people and their national forces and offering support to their brave struggle in resisting Zionist occupation and its tools.

(ii) At the forefront of current tasks facing the Palestinian revolution is participation with the Lebanese masses and their democratic national forces in fighting and ending the Zionist occupation.

(ii) The PNC calls on the executive council to work for holding talks between the PLO and the Lebanese government to achieve safety and security for Palestinian residents living in Lebanon and to ensure their rights to residency, freedom of movement, work opportunity and freedom of social and political activity.

(iv) Work to stop the random collective and individual arrests on political bases and the release of detainees from prisons of the Lebanese authorities.

5. Relations with Syria

Relations with Syria are based on PNC resolutions, in successive sessions, which affirm the importance of strategic relations between the PLO and Syria, in the service of patriotic and national goals of struggle in confronting the Zionist-imperialist enemy, and regarding the PLO and Syria — the front line before the common danger.

6. Steadfastness and Confrontation Front

The PNC encharges the executive committee of the PLO to hold talks with all parties of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to discuss its revival on actual, clear and sound bases, considering that the front did not meet the tasks required from it during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon.

7. Egypt

The PNC affirms its rejection of the Camp David accords and related plans for autonomy and civil administration. From its deep-rooted belief in the role of Egypt and its great people in the Arab struggle, the council affirms its stand alongside the struggle of the Egyptian people and their national forces to end the policy of Camp David, so that Egypt can return to its position of struggle at the heart of the Arab nation. The council calls on the executive committee to develop the PLO's relations with the Egyptian popular democratic national forces struggling against the normalisation of relations with the Zionist enemy in various forms. It regards this (struggle) as expressing the basic interests of the Arab nation and supporting the struggle of our Palestinian people for their national rights. The council calls on the executive committee to define relations with the Egyptian regime on the basis of the latter's abandoning the Camp David policy.

8. The Iraq-Iran War

The PNC holds in esteem the efforts of the PLO executive committee to end the Iraq-Iran war through the committees of the non-aligned countries and the Islamic countries. The council calls on the executive committee to continue its efforts to end this war, after Iraq declares the withdrawal of its forces from Iranian territory in response to the call of the Palestinian revolution, to mobilize all forces for the battle for the liberation of Palestine.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

1. The Brezhnev Plan

The PNC expresses its esteem and support for the proposals contained in the plan of President Brezhnev published on September 16, 1980 and which affirm the inalienable national rights of our Palestinian people, including those of return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The council also expresses its esteem for the stand of the socialist bloc countries on the just cause of our people as affirmed by the Prague declaration on the Middle East situation, published on January 3, 1983.

2. The Reagan Plan

The Reagan plan, in form and content, does not fulfill the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people because it denies the right of return, self-determination, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and that the PLO is sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and it contradicts international law. For these reasons, the PNC declares its refusal to consider the plan as a proper basis for a lasting and just solution to the Palestinian cause and the Zionist-Arab conflict.

3. International Relations

(i) Deepening and developing relations of the alliance and friendship between the PLO and the socialist countries, primarily the Soviet Union, and various international progressive and liberation forces opposed to racism, colonialism, Zionism and imperialism;

(ii) Deepening relations with non-aligned countries and Islamic and African countries for the sake of the Palestinian cause and other national liberation causes;

(iii) Strengthening relations with friendly countries in Latin America and working to widen the sphere of friendship there;

(iv) Activating political work with the countries of Western Europe and Japan, with the aim of developing their stand and widening the recognition of the PLO and the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent Palestinian state.

The PNC salutes all progressive and democratic forces hostile to racial discrimination, Zionism and imperialism in Western European countries and various capitalist countries, considering them a basic ally in these countries. (The council) calls on the executive committee to work jointly with these forces for their countries to recognize the firm national rights of the Palestinian people and the PLO.

(v) Continuing the struggle to achieve the isolation of the Zionist entity in the United Nations in various fields;

(vi) Confronting American imperialism and its policy, regarding it as standing at the head of the camp hostile to our just cause and the causes of struggling peoples.

(vii) The council affirms the importance of continuing the struggle against racial discrimination which remains the prevailing practise in a number of regimes, especially South Africa, which has established the firmest re-

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WHAT REAGAN AND BEGIN DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW

PART IX

ISRAEL'S MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND FIELD SECURITY

This week's article on Military Intelligence is the ninth part in our 10-part series excerpted from a 1979 CIA and State Department document, originally published in *CounterSpy* magazine.

There are approximately 450 officers plus a larger number of NCOs, enlisted personnel and civilian clerical personnel in the DMI. The service has priority in the selection of qualified military personnel for intelligence assignments. Military Intelligence prefers to bring individuals into intelligence work while they are young and move them upwards as they acquire experience and can assume greater responsibility. Recruiters seek promising young people who are studying foreign languages or other subjects of interest to the service in secondary school. Prior to graduation, Military Intelligence officers contact selected young students — males and females — and offer them positions as interpreters during the two years of compulsory military service which follows at the completion of secondary education. Those who accept are assigned to Military Intelligence when they join the IDF. Promising young army personnel are then sent to the Military Intelligence officers in the field. When they attain the rank of captain, having served as intelligence officers, some are assigned to an area command headquarters or to the Directorate of Military Intelligence to expand their experience and qualify them for more responsibility and eventual promotion to higher rank. Thus, many of the officers now serving with Military Intelligence entered as young men and moved up through the ranks.

Most Military Intelligence personnel are regulars, not reservists, because the IDF requires career intelligence officers. All personnel, including conscripts, join Military Intelligence voluntarily. Female enlisted members, who often serve as translators, usually serve only 20 months whereas male enlisted personnel serve 36 months.

Military Intelligence training is professional and extensive. Officers and analysts are well-trained and competent in their fields. The Military Intelligence School is located north of Tel Aviv on the road to Sde Dov airport. This school trains both officers and noncommissioned officers. Approximately 150 instructors and 90 support personnel train between 2,000 and 3,000 students annually.

Field Security personnel are selected on the basis of strict criteria regarding personal security and loyalty to Zionism and the Israeli state. They are trained by Shin Bet.

Methods of Operation

Military Intelligence is responsible for cross-border operations into the neighboring Arab states. Its operations rely heavily on the exploitation of: Arabs within Israel and the Administered Territories; Arab students, who, though residents of Israel, attend universities in the Arab nations; Arab travelers and visitors; Arabs in Israeli prisons; and Arab military deserters, defectors, Beduin and smugglers.

Military Intelligence collection requirements cover political and economic subjects as well as military information and uses the information acquired both for policymaking purposes and as basic intelligence. Military Intelligence is also active in collecting information from sources outside Israeli terrorist and subversive organizations and activities. Although SIGINT sources acquire some information on these subjects, Military Intelligence officers believe that only agent sources can really obtain the data needed on various terrorist groups policies and plans, methods of operation, equipment, training and relations with other groups. Primary Israeli interest in terrorism is to obtain early warning of impending operations.

In each regional area of Israel, local citizens, in some cases Arabs, who are Israeli agents, act as spotters for Military Intelligence. Most of these spotters have long worked for Military Intelligence, which alerts them to the type of sources desired. Once a spotter has reported a potential source, he steps aside and leaves the rest to Military Intelligence officers. Military Intelligence contacts the potential source, assesses him and, if appropriate, attempts to recruit him as an agent. This is described as the "direct method" of recruiting agents for Military Intelligence. The "indirect method" refers to recruiting sources by or through agents outside Israel. Both Field Security and the police investigate the backgrounds of potential agents for Military Intelligence.

The motives of the spotters and local support people are either monetary or a desire for services in the form of aid in reuniting families or representation on behalf of the spotter in some problem with the Israeli government. The basic agent motivation is generally economic gain in the form of salaries, loans (which are seldom repaid), and gifts. Another common incentive is a wish to move to Israel and rejoin relatives who reside there. In some cases, the agent may be a Palestinian refugee, who believes that he still has a claim to property in Israel and wants either recompense or a guarantee of the eventual return of his property. Other agents are members of Arab minority groups or opponents of Arab regimes.

The main purpose of Military Intelligence is to control the local Arab population in the Administered Territories . . .

Military Intelligence officers do have problems in handling Arab agents, who tend to exaggerate and often fail to report accurate details. Therefore, the Military Intelligence officers encourage their Arab agents to provide photographs, maps, and other corroborating documents. Military Intelligence officers also cross-check reports often by using other agents in the same region. Despite Israeli warnings during training, Arab agents tend to tell other members of their family about their association with Military Intelligence. Occasionally an Arab agent may recruit all the members of his immediate family as subagents and try to get his case officer to pay them salaries. The Israelis refer to these family subagents as "nonfunctionalist." These subagents sometimes compromise a whole operation as a result of boasting about their activities. Occasionally the Military Intelligence case officer will order these unwanted "nonfunctionals" across the border into Israel for security briefings but Military Intelligence has not solved this problem completely.

In recent years, the Israelis have provided military and security aid and training to various African nations, including Ethiopia, Uganda and Zaire. They also have military exchanges with Latin American and Asian Services.

Military Intelligence also communicates with its agents by S/W letters posted in third countries, by agent radio and by dead-drops. Military Intelligence operations have been marked by flexibility, economy in the use of assets and by responsiveness to requirements; the system worked well prior to the Yom Kippur War in October 1973. Agents reported early warning information which, in retrospect, contained reliable indications of a coming Arab attack. Direct communication with agents, however, virtually ceased during hostilities and what little agent reporting there was during the war was of limited value to Israeli military headquarters and field commanders. The principal problem faced by Military Intelligence in the acquisition and reporting of intelligence by agents is the lack of modern equipment. Although many of the agents have radios (mainly receivers) and cameras, and are familiar with secret writing, the level of sophistication in techniques and equipment is low. This adversely affects the quality, security and timeliness of collection operations. Military Intelligence employs a SIGINT system that is modern, sophisticated and effective.

The main purpose of Military Intelligence Field Security units is to control the local Arab population in the Administered Territories and to minimize their participation in terrorism. In this endeavor, Field Security of the Administered Territories works closely with Shin Bet and the Border Guard. Residents are required to carry ID cards, curfews have been imposed, suspected resistors have been detained, and the houses in the area of persons presumed to know of terrorist activities have been demolished, even though the inhabitants were not directly involved. In the early 1970s it was estimated that the Israelis had some 900 residents of the Administered Territories under administrative detention. Personnel of Field Security units have carried out sweeps in searches for terrorists and arms caches through areas in the West Bank where terrorism has occurred. On some occasions Israeli operations have taken place at night, apparently intended, at least in part, to intimidate the populace.

Relations With Foreign Agencies

Liaison between Israeli Military Intelligence and foreign organizations have varied over the years from good to poor, depending on the exigencies of the situation and the demands of policy. In recent years the Israelis have provided military and security aid and training to various African nations, including Ethiopia, Uganda and Zaire. They have also engaged in military and security training and equipment exchanges with Latin American and Asian services.

The Israelis have maintained good relations with Turkey and Iran in military and security matters. While the Israelis do not have full diplomatic relations with Iran, they have an overt official mission whose members have diplomatic titles, including that of military attache.

PALESTINE AND LITERATURE

A BOOK REVIEW
NOT SO SILENT WITNESSES

And Not Surrender:
American Poets on Lebanon
Arab-American Cultural Foundation
Washington, DC
1982

Not everyone in the US could watch the TV news last summer without responding in some way to the mass suffering of Palestinians and Lebanese which it documented. A few were motivated into direct action: medical personnel found their way to Lebanon to volunteer their services and hundreds of Arab students went to fight.

Some Americans mobilised within their country and organised demonstrations, protest rallies, discussion groups and press conferences to educate the less informed about the horrors of the Israeli invasion and occupation of its northern neighbour. The sheer dimension of the Israeli military onslaught and the intensity of its relentless bombing of population centers — extensively covered by media in the guilt-ridden West — prompted reactions of discomfort and concern from many heretofore uncritical of US-Israeli Middle East policy.

There had been no earthquake in Beirut. The thousands who were left dead and wounded by the avalanche of steel, concrete and fire were victims of an international disaster, planned in Tel Aviv and bankrolled in Washington. And "who can protest and does not, is an accomplice in the act."

And Not Surrender, sets forth, in poetry form, the anguish and frustration felt by some of those witnesses from afar. In what editor/writer Kamal Boullata calls a "chorality of poetry," the works of a score of politically-committed American poets — the famous and the fledgling — have been collected. Together they universalise, and at the same time personalise, the Lebanon war, fleshing out the two-dimensional images on the TV screen.

The poets include Arabs, Jewish- and Afro-Americans. Some are well-known, such as: Etel Adnan, Gabrielle Edgcomb, Sam Hazo, June Jordan, Denise Levertov, Pablo Medina and E. Ethelbert Miller. Yasmin Adib, Naomi Shihab Nye, D. H. Melhem and Gregory Orfalea — of Arab parents who immigrated to the US — write from a unique perspective, somewhere in between the 'us' and 'them', their identity fused with the news.

On "a photogray day" in Washington, DC, Chris Llewellyn is getting ready to jog, "sp[ies] a pile of *Posts* packed under mailbox . . . /pictures of shredded skies . . . " she remembers "a near stranger and continents away," a Palestinian who as a child fled with his family in a train, on its way the train was blown up, Llewellyn goes on, "running . . . running . . . "

Samuel Hazo in Pittsburgh is driving a car. The night has fallen, "a dashboard voice from Washington/talks war in Lebanon . . ./ bursting like rocketry, a scar of fire/slashes down the sky" he remembers Lorca and thinks of "this Guernica in Beirut . . . "

As she is breathing the "thin air" of a peaceful summer day in the Adirondacks, Sara Miles is "thinking: homeland/past the old rock walls grown green with vine hearing/jets roar low over other hills of home and it must be/ almost night now in that land" she wonders "if the bombing has started yet."

Kathy Engel in New York City sits in front of the television set watching "as the camera pulls back/and the screams follow/switching channels incessantly/to get each news on each station/with each commentator/with combed hair and the language of war/ . . . many numbers and no names . . . / . . . We can't get close enough/pushing our faces up against the smudged screen . . . / one fly buzzes across the cool surface/and there — flies upon flies swarm."

In California, Etel Adnan writes that even in Beirut "Muhammad is confused/he hallucinates/each night/in front of the radio/and vomits the news." She asks, "Do you know/that people [in Beirut] were not running in a nightmare but in/front of television?" in their fears, in their vulnerable shells.

Comparisons with other wars, other Sabra-Shatilas, run everywhere, but nowhere is it stronger than in the lines of the Jewish poets. Kathy Engel writes:

We live in the body of our own history
and drink the blood of our ancestors
and it is preposterous I know to think
we might harden
towards those who resemble us

Barbara Berman, in "At The Edge," concludes:

We have crossed the edge of decency
for the sake of the Galilee we're
told by men
who care nothing for deep green hills.

and Gabrielle Edgcomb:

I am not Israeli Zionist
Lebanese Palestinian
I'm German Jew
Survivor from Berlin. . .
the crimes are re-enacted -
there's no forgiving the shame.

Not all of the poems succeed — as poetry or as clear politics — but there are many unforgettable moments in this small volume. June Jordan needs to talk in her own language:

I need to talk about living room
because I need to talk about home
I was born a Black woman
and now/I am become a Palestinian . . .
It is time to make our way home.

And Not Surrender is a beautifully produced anthology published by the Arab American Cultural Foundation in Washington, DC. Proceeds from the book's sales go to children's relief efforts in Lebanon.

Blood

"A true Arab knows how to catch a fly in his hands,"
my father would say. And he'd prove it,
cupping the buzzer instantly
while the host with the swatter stared.

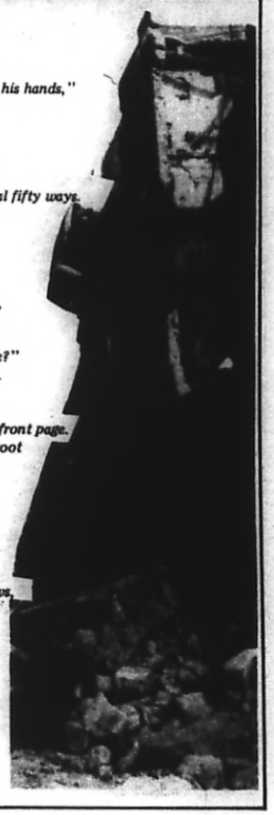
In the spring our palms peeled like snakes.
True Arabs believed watermelon could heal fifty ways.
I changed these to fit the occasion

Years before, a girl knocked,
wanted to see the Arab.
I said we didn't have one.
After that, my father told me who he was,
"Shihab" — "shooting star" —
a good name, borrowed from the sky.
Once I said, "When we die, we give it back?"
He said that's what a true Arab would say.

Today the headlines clot in my blood.
A little Palestinian dangles a truck on the front page.
Homeless fig, this tragedy with a terrible root
is too big for us. What flag can we wave?
I wave the flag of stone and seed,
table-mat stitched in blue.

I call my father, we talk around the news.
It is too much for him,
neither of his two languages can reach it.
I drive into the country to find sheep, cows,
to plead with the air:
Who calls anyone civilized?
Where can the crying heart graze?
What does a true Arab do now?

Naomi Shihab Nye



Dear Lebanon

Death
no longer waits for old age
it comes disguised as war

How can I continue to love
in a world which needs love
in a world where lovers pick bullets
from their hearts

my questions are flowers growing
in loneliness

to live in this world
without caring
is to be a poet
without voice or vision

to be uncommitted
is to show no mercy

Dear Lebanon
I bring you poems/prayers
& hymns

E. Ethelbert Miller

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS

The acts of terror by settlers – placing bombs in mosques, arbitrary shootings, and abduction of children in Hebron – were the main headlines in the local Palestinian newspapers.

Other subjects which received prominent coverage this week: the American and Israeli threats to Syria regarding deployment of the SAM-5 batteries and the popular meeting held February 26, in the town of Shafa 'Amr. This meeting, said to the be the largest gathering ever of Palestinian representatives inside the'green line',was held to denounce the Israeli action of joining thousands of dunums of Arab land to Jewish regional bodies.

Action Against Washington Plans

Whatever interpretation the supporters of the Reagan plan contrive to apply to the words of the PNC's resolutions concerning this plan, they cannot convince anyone, other than themselves, that the council did not decide to reject it.

The point is not the use of th word 'reject' in itself, but rather the description of the plan's contents as denying the rights of the Palestinian people and the PLO.After such a description, it is inconceivable that the PLO can agree either to negotiate, or to the negotiation of those negotiating in its name, on the basis of this plan!

This is the core of the situation. If there are any who talk of an 'open' door, they are certainly not Palestinians.

The right-wing Arab countries, who thought that by hawking the Reagan plan, they could convince the Arab people that they were in 'solidarity' with the Palestinian people, should look for other means. The fundamental and sole standard of solidarity with the Palestinian people is adherence to the goal of an independent state and supporting the PLO to reach this goal. Anything short of this is not solidarity with the Palestinian people and is not in their interest, rather, it is solidarity with Reagan and with the goals of American imperialism in the region.

Thus King Hussein and other rulers are now required not to negotiate on the Reagan plan, but rather to take the necessary measures to strengthen their internal democratic fronts, to work for Arab solidarity in struggle against imperialism and its plans, and to change the balance of power in favour of the Palestinian people and their Arab brethren.

This is the real touchstone for claims of solidarity with the Palestinian people and respect for Palestinian independence. Without this, everything that is said is mere hypocrisy!

AL TALIA
February 24

Basic Right

The events of the last 30 years in this region have proved that the whole conflict is a result of the Palestinian issue. It is the sole crisis and from it have developed other problems involving other parties in the area.

There is no better proof of the centrality of the Palestinian cause in the Arab-Israeli conflict than the race to end it. Without dealing frankly and basically with the just demands of the Palestinians, other crises have been created.

The great majority of countries in the world have step by step, irrespective of their concern in the Middle East crisis, come to consider this crisis a major problem and have dealt with the problem of the Palestinian people accordingly. It seems that the United States, despite seeming to ignore the core of the problem for a long time, has begun to be convinced that dealing with this hard fact is the only way to achieve a convincing peaceful settlement in the region. This tendency has appeared in the statements of top officials, particularly President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz.

However, this still leaves much to be desired. The US administration must understand that as long as the Palestinians are a people like others, they have the basic and clear right to enjoy the right of self-determination.

AL QUDS
February 26

At Least!

There have been exaggerated news reports recently in the American and Israeli press on the establishment of SAM-5 missile sites on Syrian soil. Linking these reports to political statements made by Israeli officials, there clearly appears to be a strong possibility of new explosions in the situation in the region.

We are sure that the importance which characterises the Arab position encourages the US and Israel to pursue their plans for controlling the region. Talk of the setting up of SAM-5 missiles is nothing other than an attempt to implement certain plans which will lead the region into another round of tension.

This situation demands that national Arab forces, at least, prepare their ranks and clarify their relations. Doubtless , the resolutions of the PNC, which asserted the necessity for concerted efforts to activate the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, offers a new starting point for national Arab work on the basis of mutual respect and independence and on the basis of a joint task at this precise stage.

AL SHAAB
February 28

'New' American Plans

The new Israeli War Minister Moshe Arens has announced that the American Defence Minister Caspar Weinberger outlined a political programme detrimental to Israel because of his past financial relations with some Arab states. A few hours later Weinberger rushed to "reply to the accusation" by launching a violent attack against Syria. He accused it of holding "an advanced position in the Soviet empire" and asserted that "Israeli-American relations have not deteriorated because the fundamental relations between the two countries are extremely good, although it is natural for friends to differ on certain subjects."

One notices that this gentle and delicate style of reply from Weinberger is not confined to him alone. His companion in this game of "pleasing Israel" is his colleague, Secretary of State George Shultz. Shultz's recent statement to a congressional committee has been described by observers as a new American programme aimed at lessening the "acuteness" of relations with Israel. As if these relations were ever really tense.

However things are, even the simplest of our people are no longer ignorant of the nature of American-Israeli strategic relations, which Weinberger himself confirmed by saying that the "fundamental" relations between the two countries are extremely good and that it is only natural to differ on minor issues . . .

Perhaps one cannot avoid the truth that American-Israeli differences are nothing more than a mere smoke-bomb to cover America's hostile new plans in the region.

The question is: What is the "new" thing that Washington is preparing? Especially as news reports from there talk of prepared meals and the expectations of sending a new and extraordinary "envoy" to implement these plans.

AL FAJR
March 1

Warped Logic

In the warped American logic, and naturally that of Israel, it is a source of anxiety and a step toward instability in the area if Syria tries to strengthen itself in any form and from any source; whereas if Israel is totally armed with the latest and most advanced weapons, this means "stability" in the area.

Syrian territory is not only occupied, but Israel has annexed it against the wishes of its residents. The Syrian missiles in Lebanon were destroyed by Israel, an act which the US considered in the interests of "stability and security" and did not say that this shook the foundations of the Middle East and the wider world.

The US wants Israel, which contains no more than 3.5 million Jews, to be a strategic balance to the Arab world with a population of over 150 million. The US wants Israel to have "free rein" in the region, north and south and at all times; it wants the Arabs to accept this and "welcome it with open arms." If they search for sources of power in order to retrieve their land and rights, then, in the American view, the Arabs give rise to anxiety and instability.

What sort of logic and what sort of policy is this that the US wants to impose on the Arab nation? What we really lack is stronger and more powerful Arab action to provoke American "anxiety" and to explode this so-called "instability" in the region.

Greetings to our Soviet friends who have once again proved their ability. Perhaps some of the Arabs who are submissive to the US will realise that the US is not the only super-power, even if they "ride with it" voluntarily.

AL MITHAQ
March 2

THE BREZHNEV PLAN

The principles for peace in the Middle East as defined by Leonid Brezhnev, late president of the USSR and General Secretary of the Communist Party.

We are certain that the just and lasting peace in the Middle East may and must be established on the following principles that are in harmony with the general principles of international law and the decisions of the General Assembly of the UN in this regard:

1. The strict adherence to the principle of prohibition of taking over the land of others through forceful aggression. This means that Arabs should get back all the land which Israel has occupied since 1967 ie. the Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Lebanese territory. Specific and permanent borders between Israel and its Arab neighbours should be declared.

2. Securing the resolute right of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination and to establish its own independent state on Palestinian land which will be liberated from Israeli occupation ie, the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip. Palestinian refugees should be allowed, in accordance with UN resolutions, to return to their homeland or receive adequate compensation for their abandoned property.

3. The eastern section of Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in 1967, which contains a sacred Islamic site, must be returned to the Arabs. This section should become an intergral part of the Palestinian state. Free access to religious sites in all Jeruslaem must be guaranteed to believers of the three religions.

4. Securing all countries in the region to peaceful and secure existence and development on the condition that the principle of equal relations is adhered to. It will be impossible to guarantee the security of one state by infringing the security of others.

5. Termination of the state of war, and the achievement of peace between the Arab states and Israel. This means that all parties in the conflict, including Israel and the Palestinian state, adhere to and mutually respect the integrity and independence and the geographical unity of each others' territory, and the solution of all conflicts which arise, by peaceful means and though negotiations.

6. Preparing and approving international guarantees for the settlement. The permanent member states of the UN security council may play an active role in that.

This comprehensive just and stable settlement, cannot be prepared or achieved except by collective efforts with the participation of all parties concerned, including, of course, the PLO, the sole legitimate reprsentative of the Palestinian Arab people.

Our widely supported proposal for an international conference on the Middle East, aims specifically at this settlement.

PNC Resolutions

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lations with the Zionist enemy. The council salutes the struggle of the developing people, led by the SWAPO organisation, for freedom and independence. The council also salutes the struggle of the people of South Africa against racial discrimination and oppression.

(viii) The PNC strongly condemns terrorism and international terrorism, particularly organised and official terrorism of Israel a the US, against the Palestinian people, the), the Lebanese people, the Arab nation and various national liberation movements.

(ix) The PNC affirms its adherence to the principles, charter and resolutions of the United Nations, which confirm the non-negotiable, inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people to establish a lasting and just peace in the Middle East and the right of all peoples subjugated by occupation to practice all forms of struggle for national independence and liberation. The council also affirms its decisive condemnation of all Zionist and imperialist practises which violate international law and the International Declaration of Human Rights and the principles and resolutions of the United Nations Charter.

(x) The PNC values the activities and achievements of the special UN committee in enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights in Palestine. (The council) salutes the efforts of its members, especially the decision of the UN General Assembly to organise an international conference in the summer of 1983 to support the Palestinian people in achieving their inalienable rights.

The council likewise values the achievements of the secretariat of the international conference of the United Nations in preparing for the success of this conference. The council calls on all brother Arab countries and friendly countries to participate effectively in the work of the conference and likewise, in preparatory and regional meetings, to secure the success of the work of the international conference.

There is no doubt that the peoples' victory will come. The solidarity of peace-loving peoples is a solidarity we cherish and adhere to. The PNC sends salutations to all the heroic masses of our people, *inside* and *outside* (the occupied territories) and to our brave fighters who have preserved the honour of their revolution, arms and nation. (The council also salutes) the souls of the martyrs and fighters of our Palestinian people and of the Lebanese people who irrigated the national soil with blood and who affirmed that the cause of freedom will not die in our country.

The PNC also salutes our brothers in the Syrian forces who participated in the heroic battle in Beirut and other areas, and their martyrs. The PNC also values all the Arab and Muslim volunteers and friends who came to participate with the joint forces in the battles of Beirut and Lebanon. We salute their heroic martyrs.

The PNC values all countries and friendly forces who offered the support of weapons, money and military effort through equipment and training, particularly the Arab and Islamic states, the non-aligned countries, the African countries and the socialist countries.

— Long live the victorious Palestinian revolution.

— Long live the PLO, the unified framework of our people and leader of their struggle.

— Long live the unity of the struggle of our Arab peoples and the peoples of the world for the sake of freedom and national independence and the defeat of Zionism, racism and imperialism.

— Honour and eternal glory to our martyrs.

Revolution Until Victory.

In conclusion, the council warmly thanks and deeply appreciates the people, party, government and president of Algeria for hosting the council and its guests and for its great care for the success of (the council's) work. (We also thank them) for their effort to ensure the coverage of (the council's) activities in the mass media and in providing a suitable atmosphere for the progress of its discussions and ensuring the safety and comfort of its members and guests. The council especially thanks our brother, President Chadhli Ben Jadid, president of the republic and general secretary of the party. for his officially declared stand concerning independence of Palestinian decisions, and Algeria's readiness to support and further this decision by supporting the Palestinian struggle until it achieves victory and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The council sends thanks and esteem to all popular and official delegations who participated in the work of our council and who declared their support for the PLO and the cause of the Palestinian people.

This international support of our revolution is, without doubt, one of the basic elements in the success of our march, in which the free peoples prove their solidarity in face of the joint enemy of Zionism and imperialism for the sake of the progress, independence and freedom of peoples.

As for our brother Arab delegations who have participated with our council, while thanking and saluting them for their presence and support, we also thank them in particular for their role and action in the Arab arena in creating more favourable conditions for supporting our struggle and for confronting Israeli plans.

The PNC, at the conclusion of its work, promises the Arab and Palestinian masses and all international forces for freedom and struggle, to continue the struggle in all political and military forms and to pursue them towards our people's goals. It considers this international, Arab and Palestinian cohesion to be one of the effective weapons of support and solidarity between peoples whose certain result must be the attainment of praiseworthy goals.

WB Demonstrations

continued from page 1

March 1

Demonstrations flared again in various parts of the occupied West Bank, to protest the closure of Ma'zouz al-Masri school. In Nablus, more demonstrations took place as youths took to the streets, burning tyres and blocking the roads with rocks and garbage. Soldiers countered with tear gas, and scores of students were rounded up.

Demonstrations also occured in Dheisheh camp near Bethlehem. Stones were thrown at Israeli traffic. The camp was placed under curfew, and traffic between Bethlehem and Hebron was detoured to side roads.

In Kalandia refugee camp, on the main Ramallah-Jerusalem road, youths stoned Israeli traffic, breaking the windscreen of a bus. Head of the ultra-right-wing Kach group, Meir Kahane, attempted to hold a press conference at Kalandia camp. He was prevented by the Israeli army. Kahane was briefly detained but later released on personal bail.

March 2

Demonstrations continued in Nablus for the third day. The Qasabeh remained under curfew. Israeli radio reports said that one Israeli soldier was wounded as a result of stone throwing. Demonstrations also spread to nearby Askar refugee camp.

In Ramallah, students from various schools participated in demonstrations, which involved tyre burning and stone throwing. Israel TV reported that two schools (Ramallah secondary school for boys, and Ramallah secondary school for girls) were ordered closed for one month.

Demonstrations were also reported in Kalandia and Ama'ari camps near Ramallah and Dheisheh camp near Bethlehem.

Israeli radio reported that in Jenin a hand grenade was thrown at an Israeli military vehicle. The radio station said that the incident occurred near Homish settlement, and did not cause any damage. (Translation: Al Fajr, Al Shaab, Al Mithaq, The Jerusalem Post, March 1-3)

WEEKLY REVIEW

Hamzeh Omar Othman Abu Shuaib, 36, from Jamma'in, near Nablus died from stomach cancer February 27. Abu Shuaib was released from prison earlier this year after serving nine years of a 15-year sentence. His release came after his condition was declared hopeless.

February 23, 1983

TRIALS

The military court in Gaza sentenced Jamal Abu Habal to 15 years imprisonment after being convicted of membership in a Palestinian organisation. The authorities destroyed his family's house three months ago.

The court also sentenced Khalid 'Atiy to six months imprisonment for possessing banned pictures and drawings. Ramzi Abu Matar was fined IS5000 for possession of East Jerusalem journal *Al-Bayader al-Siyasi*.

In Ramallah, the military court fined 40 students from the Kalandia Vocational Training School, after holding them for days in Ramallah and Fara' prisons, between IS30-45,000 or four months imprisonment. They imposed a curfew on the camp last Monday, following demonstrations there during which stones were thrown at Israeli vehicles and an officer of the 'civil administration' was wounded, according to Israel Radio.

The authorities set February 28 as the final date for paying the fines.

UNIONIST JAILED

LYDDA — The Israeli military court in Lydda sentenced the general secretary of the Food Production Workers Union in Jerusalem, Adel Wazwaz, to two years and four months prison with three years suspended. Ali Said Musa Abd al-Nabi Mahmoud from Issawiyeh was sentenced to one and a half years in prison. Both were convicted of membership.

ATTACKS CONTINUE

BEIRUT — The Lebanese national resistance movement issued a statement about three recent attacks on Israeli forces in Sidon, Tyre and Nabatiyeh in South Lebanon.

The statement said that the national resistance ambushed an Israeli military patrol at the northern entrance of Sidon and that a group had blown up three Israeli army vehicles inside the Nabatiyeh market.

ISRAEL'S RESPONSE

SOUTH LEBANON — Reports from South Lebanon say that Israeli military patrols are carrying out wide-scale search and round-up operations in areas where they were attacked by Lebanese national resistance forces.

Israel radio admitted an attack on a bus in Nabatiyeh and said that an Israeli vehicle was burned in Nabatieyh in South Lebanon. The radio gave no details on the incident other than to say that the Israeli forces were investigating it.

JAIL EXPANSION

Haim Kubarski, director general of the Israeli interior ministry, announced to the Knesset finance committee that the Israeli government has recently approved major plans for building eight new prisons.

One will be built near Nablus during the coming financial year and will house 1000 prisoners.

NEW UNION BUSTING

Israeli soldiers detained Salah Ayad, assistant secretary of the Public Institutions Workers Union (Aizarriyeh, Abu Dis and Sawahreh Sharqiyeh branch) and remanded him for 18 days interrogation.

The secretary of the union, Ali Abu Hilal, has been in prison for three months.

WOMAN WOUNDED

A woman from Taqu'a in the Bethlehem area was wounded in the left leg from a shell fragment in an Israeli exercise area. Hasneh Rashid Jibrin, 45, was taken to Hadassah hospital for treatment.

February 24, 1983

WELCOME BACK!

The Israeli authorities released Bassam Abd al-Hamid Sayeh after eight years in prison. Sayeh, who was charged with political offences, spent part of his term in Nafha.

POISON WATER

REINEH — Residents of Reineh near Nazareth have complained that the spring water they use for drinking has become contaminated with sewage water from the Jewish settlement of Upper Nazareth.

The head of the local council has sent letters to the mayor of Upper Nazareth and the health departments in Afula and Nazareth, but has not yet received a reply.

NEW TOWN ARREST

JERUSALEM — Israeli authorities renewed the town arrest order on Feisal Husseini, director of the Arab Studies Centre, and Dr. Amin Khatib, head of the Union of Charitable Societies in Jerusalem, for six months.

DETAINEE EMERGENCY

HEBRON — Mayors, heads of institutions and the International Committee of the Red Cross have appealed for the release of political prisoner Kayed Mohammed Issa Amro, 23, from Hebron, who has been in prison since September 10, 1980, without trial. The prisoner's father said that he needs urgent medical treatment.

WB MASSACRE WARNING

MK Meir Tsiban called on Israeli Premier Begin asking him to take all the necessary steps to prevent a massacre in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The MK demanded that Rabbi Moshe Levinger and his supporters be prevented from carrying out acts of revenge in the occupied territories after the death of Ester Uhana last week, who was hit by a stone near Dhahriyeh.

ATTACK IN JORDAN VALLEY

Haaretz reported that unidentified persons attacked Israeli soldiers in the Jordan Valley for the second time this week. Security sources said that "Arabs living in these areas attacked the Israeli soldiers."

The first incident was the throwing of a stone from a Mercedes at a military vehicle near Mashwa settlement. The following day, unidentified persons attacked a soldier waiting for passengers in his car in the Jordan Valley. The soldier was seriously injured and was taken to the hospital. His condition was described as stable.

HADDAD ROAD SHOW

BEIRUT — Forces of collaborator Saad Haddad occupied the Saraya building in the village of Jabjatain in the Beqa'a Valley. Correspondents in the area said that a militia unit belonging to Saad Haddad, supported by Israeli military forces, occupied the building and demanded that the Lebanese police leave it.

NO CHANGE AT THE TOP

LOS ANGELES — Moshe Arens, the newly appointed Israeli defence minister, told *The Los Angeles Times* that he does not rule out the possibility of Israel carrying out a "preventive" military operation against Syria if Soviet SAM-5 missiles remain on Syrian soil. Commenting on President Reagan's call for a homeland for Palestinians, Arens said: "the Palestinians have a homeland and a state in Jordan."

CHANGE HOTEL INTO HOME

Gideon Patt, Israeli minister of industry, said that there are now 229 Israeli factories in the West Bank and another 82 are to be transferred soon.

Patt said that the reason for setting them up in the West Bank was to prevent the area from becoming a 'hotel' in which settlers sleep before going off to work the next day in Israel.

NO GO IN J'LEM

The International Civil Aviation Agency — a branch of the UN — has announced its vehement opposition to the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority's decision to declare Kalandia airport, Jerusalem, an alternative to Lydda International Airport.

The agency said that Kalandia airport is in Jordan and cannot possibly be an alternative to Lydda airport.

LEBANON ATTACK

The Israeli military spokesperson announced that a land mine exploded under an Israeli armoured troop carrier in the Kamed al-Louz area in South Lebanon.

The spokesperson added that the explosion took place when the vehicle went over a land mine. He claimed that no one was injured.

PNC TO KNESSET

JERUSALEM — MK Yossi Sarid has tabled a motion calling on the Knesset to carefully consider the PNC resolutions. He said they contain a number of positive tendencies, such as a readiness to choose a political path to solve the Palestinian probelm.

NEW MILITARY MAYOR

TEL AVIV — The head of the Israeli 'civil administration' in the West Bank has appointed Gamla'e Elioz head of the committee appointed by the military administration for al-Bireh municipality to succeed Morris Barkochba from the beginning of next month.

Israel radio said that Elioz worked in many posts in the Israeli 'civil administration' in the West Bank and was responsible for the village councils of the Jenin and Tulkarm areas.

Najiya Khalil Khawaji, three children and Najiya's mother-in-law stand in front of their five-room house, bulldozed by the occupation forces, February 23 in Fakhari, near Rafah. Najiya's husband, Muhammad Ahmad Abu Daqqa was arrested two months ago and is still under detention./POP Photo

February 25, 1983

LEBANON ROUND UP

BEIRUT: UP — A top security official has complained that soldiers of the Israeli forces have arrested more than 40 persons in South Lebanon. The official said that occupation soldiers raided dozens of houses in Sidon and explained that those arrested belong to the popular Nasserite movement known by the name of "Attanzim" lead by Mustapha Najal, the famous Sidon leader who was assassinated in 1975. His death was one of the factors leading to the civil war in Lebanon.

He said that the prisoners were taken to the government building in Sidon, at present used by the Israeli military governor as a headquarters, and from there to Ansar detention camp in South Lebanon. Only two were subsequently released.

FIVE DEAD IN NAQAB

Five persons were killed and four others injured when a land mine exploded in the Naqab desert. All were Beduin.

JORDAN PLANE ATTACKED

BEIRUT: UP — Lebanese police sources said that rockets were fired at a Jordanian passenger plane in Beirut airport. The rocket fell near the plane while the passengers were leaving it. Police and army surrounded the and searched the area.

CHARITABLES MEET

JERUSALEM — The first annual meeting of the administrative body of the Union of Charitable Organisations was held in Jerusalem at the headquarters of the Arab Women's Union. It was attended by 50 representatives of charitable societies.

February 26, 1983

BEIRUT ATTACK

BEIRUT — A Lebanese national resistance cell launched a rocket attack on an Israeli position in Khaldeh, South Lebanon. Radio Lebanon reported the attack but gave no further details. Lebanese security sources said that three rockets were fired at Israeli positions and that one fell on the western side of Beirut airport without exploding.

ANTI-CAMP DAVID DEMO

CAIRO — Hundreds of Egyptian lawyers and members of opposition parties demonstrated in Cairo on the third anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Israel. They carried banners denouncing the Camp David accords.

PEACE NOW DEMO

TEL AVIV — A thousand Peace Now demonstrators held a torchlight march from the Israeli defence ministry to the Israel Museum in Tel Aviv. The demonstrators gathered in front of the museum carrying banners demanding that Ariel Sharon be thrown out of the government.

NO EXIT

JENIN — The Israeli authorities are preventing all Jenin residents aged between 20 and 30 from crossing into Jordan. No reasons have been given for this measure. Reports state that 140 women students at Jordanian universities and colleges have been prevented from resuming their studies.

February 27, 1983

MORE SNOW DEATHS

DAMASCUS — The Syrian news agency reported that 14 members of the Syrian forces in Lebanon died in the snow storms there.

US BIG WIGS WANT TIES

One hundred and thirty senior officers in the US army and navy signed a letter in *The New York Times* asking Ronald Reagan to sign an agreement with Israel to obtain all the information it got on Soviet-made weapons during the war in Lebanon.

NO BIRTH

The Israeli interior ministry has refused to give a birth certificate to a child born two and a half months ago in Tel Aviv as the child's mother does not have a certificate from a hospital proving the birth. The mother gave birth at home because she preferred to do so.

INVESTIGATION DEMAND

Deputy mayor of Khalil (Hebron), Mustapha Natshe, sent a letter of protest to the Israeli defence minister demanding an investigation into the time-bomb which exploded outside a local mosque in the town, Friday, and the shooting up of two houses today.

POLICE HIT

An Israeli policeman was wounded after being attacked by two youths in Qalqilya. The youths escaped.

RAILWAY ATTACK

Iron bars were placed over the railway track 20 kilometers south of Kiryat Gat. They were discovered before a train passed, thereby avoiding an accident. First results of investigations indicate that this may have been an act of "sabotage," according to the police.

SOLDIER HIT IN NABLUS

An Israeli soldier was injured in the face by glass splinters when the windscreen of the bus in which he was travelling was shattered by stones near Askar camp. Israeli forces dispersed youths by firing in the air and throwing tear gas grenades.

BOMB

TEL AVIV — A hand grenade was found inside a bus belonging to the Egged company.

The bus was on its way from the settlement of Kfar Saba to Tel Aviv and it exploded after all the passengers had got out.

HADDAD EXPANDS

SOUTH LEBANON — Gangs affiliated to Lebanese renegade Saad Haddad set up a new position in the port of Sidon in South Lebanon as part of the attempt to expand his mini-state. Haddad now has military centers in Sidon, Nabatiyeh, and the municipality building in the Beqa'a region.

NO PARADE

TEL AVIV — An Israeli ministerial committee has decided to cancel a planned military parade to celebrate the establishment of the state of Israel. Radio Israel said the celebrations were cancelled because of the expense, calculated at IS 6 million.

PHOTOGRAPHERS PROTEST

Newspaper photographers in Israel have sent a letter to the police inspector protesting what they describe as the "ugly treatment" they received from the police during the Peace Now demonstration at which Emile Greenzweig was killed. Twenty-five Israeli photographers signed the letter. In it they said that they were struck by policemen. The photographers have sent a similar letter to Police Minister Yosef Burg. They are demanding a reply to their letter through the Israeli Journalists Union.

JAIL FOR BUILDING

Three residents of Baqa al-Gharbiyeh in the Triangle were sentenced to six months imprisonment for building in the village without a license. Israel radio added that 30 other residents have been summoned to trial for the same reason.

An Israeli spokesperson claimed that 60 percent of the buildings in Baqa al-Gharbiyeh have been built without permission from the authorities.

February 28, 1983

HOUSE COLLAPSES

DURA — The house of 'Awda Jabar Abd al-Fattah Haroub collapsed under a drift of snow and heavy rain. His family was saved by neighbours who rushed to pull out the family.

COST OF THE WAR

MOSCOW: UP — The Soviet news agency, TASS, said that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon destroyed six cities and 30 villages and wiped out 14 Palestinian refugee camps. The damage to Lebanese industry was US $20 billion and the damage to the state sector is estimated at over US $8 billion.

REFUSNIKS JAILED

JERUSALEM — Official sources announced that a military court convicted three Israeli soldiers and sentenced them to 28 days imprisonment for refusing to serve in Lebanon. Since the start of the war, 21 soldiers have been convicted on similar charges.

LEAGUE COUP

The head of the Israeli 'civil administration' in the West Bank, Shlomo Ilya, has officially requested the resignation of Mohammad Nasser, head of the Hebron Village League. The latter has refused to quit. The request was made because of the latter's mishandling of finances and appointments, Israel Radio reported.

According to the radio, Nasser has refused to resign because he does not think the 'civil administration' has the right to interfere with the Village Leagues.

AMARI STONING

An Israeli vehicle was stoned near Amari camp in the Ramallah district. Israeli forces immediately closed off entrances to the camp.

CALL FOR LAND FUND

The Progressive Movement in Nazareth called for the formation of a land fund for defending the land. They made this suggestion in letters sent to the heads of Arab village councils. The movement states that successive Israeli governments have planned to impoverish Palestinians to force them off the land and to become wage labourers.

March 1, 1983

PRICE HIKE

Beginning today, the price of petrol will go up by 5 percent. The Israeli minister of finance and energy explained that it is necessary to match the price of petrol with that of world prices. He expressed his belief that it was necessary to raise the price by an even larger percentage.

One litre of Octane 91 benzene now costs IS23, and a litre of Octane 94 IS25.10.

C-of-C MEETS

NABLUS — The Chamber of Commerce held an emergency meeting to discuss the collective punishments imposed by the Israeli authorities on town residents which have increased recently, leading to greater economic difficulties and the postponement of school studies. They decided to send the following telegramme to the military governor of the town:

"The town is facing collective punishment including curfews for long periods, especially on the Old City and commercial centre.

"The erection of iron gates at some major entrances of the Old City;

"ID checks of passers-by and tradesmen;

"The closure of schools for long periods;

"Road blocks at the entrance to the Old City;

"Raids on houses, expulsion of people from their houses and destruction of their property.

"These collective punishments are detrimental to the economic situation and to education."

The curfew is still enforced on the town and on the nearby camp of Ain el-Ma' for the second consecutive day. The Israeli authorities are continuing wide-scale arrests of residents.

DEVELOPERS DESTROY

JERUSALEM — Bulldozers belonging to a so-called Company for the Development of the Jewish Quarter in the Old City began, without prior permission, to destroy a building belonging to the *Mugharba waqf*. The structure, used as a grocery store, lies inside the Mugharba Gate, a few meters away from al-Aqsa mosque, and is rented to Abd al-Fattah Saleh Zaidan al-Ramouni.

Administrators of the *waqf* said that they were surprised by the destruction and that neither they, nor the tenant, had been notified. They said they consider the destruction "illegal" and a "violation of the most basic human rights."

BOMB IN HEBRON

HEBRON — A resident of Hebron, about to drive his car which was standing outside his shop in Wadi Tuffah Street, discovered an explosive device under the car seat. He immediately notified the police. Israeli army forces surrounded the area, removed the explosive from his car, and safely defused it.

JENIN PROTEST

JENIN — A number of residents have sent the following telegramme to the Jenin military governor and the head of the 'civil administration' in the West Bank: "For over three weeks, Jenin residents have been prevented from travelling to Jordan to attend their universities. We ask you to lift this ban and allow them, in the name of humanity, to leave."

ATAWNEHS WANT JUSTICE AGAINST LEAGUE

HEBRON — The Atawneh family from the village of Beit Kahil in the Hebron district have telegrammed the Israeli defence minister asking him to issue an order to reopen the investigation into the murder of teacher Dahoud Atawneh and the wounding of seven others. They expressed their hope that the criminals would soon be brought to trial.

The deceased was killed during a dispute with a group of Hebron Village League members and Beit Kahil residents last June.

ANTI-P.N. ISRAELI JAILED

TEL AVIV — The Israeli magistrate's court sentenced Benihayu Aharoni to one year suspended imprisonment and fined him IS25,000 after finding him guilty of harassing Peace Now demonstrators and threatening them during the demonstration in front of Begin's office after the publication of the Kahan report. A hand grenade was thrown during the demonstration, leading to the death of one of the movement's members.

CLUB REOPENS

In the presence of a large crowd of Battir residents, the Battir sports club, closed by the authorities in 1973, was reopened after being given a new license.

PALESTINIAN CENSUS

Population surveys of Palestinians show that they total 4.4 million people. The largest number outside the occupied territories is in Jordan where there are over 1,150,000 Palestinians.

The statistics were gathered from occupied Palestine and 15 other countries, including Kuwait, where the statistics show there are 290,000 Palestinians.

Italian Delegation Witnesses Oppression of Palestinians Under Gemayel Regime

Palestinians in Ein Al-Hilwe

by Livia Rokach
Our Rome Correspondent

ROME: MARCH 2 — Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq Wazzan last week officially informed a fact-finding mission composed of four members of the Italian Senate's foreign affairs commission that the Lebanese government firmly intends to expel all Palestinians presently residing in Lebanon. The figure mentioned was 500,000 and reference was made to the expulsion of "all Palestinians settled in Lebanon since 1948." Since this figure includes the civilian population now living in the Beqa'a and in the north of Lebanon, there seems to be no other possible interpretation to the statement than that the Lebanese government has already committed itself to the expulsions, with a promise to this effect to the Israelis within the framework of the negotiations.

The members of the delegation who reported on their findings to the Senate foreign affairs commission on February 22, inquired in their official meetings with Wazzan and Foreign Minister Elie Salem about the reasons for the expulsion of the Italian doctors from the Acca hospital, last year. They were told no less than that the medical care given to Palestinians in that hospital by the Italian team was seen as "an attempt to reconstitute the PLO in Beirut." The senators found that it was impossible to argue with their Lebanese interlocutors over this subject. As "compensation" the Lebanese are now offering the Italians the possibility to open a medical day-care centre in the Sports City, where, obviously, no Palestinian patients would go to get medical care, if only because of the distance from the camps, not to speak of the mass graves which fill the place since the physical liquidation, in mid-September, of hundreds of persons taken away from Sabra and Shatila to be shot there.

The Italian senatorial mission, headed by socialist senator Margherita Beniver, who is also responsible for the foreign relations of her country, is reported to have received information from UNRWA officials that a secret and totally segregated prison camp exists on the periphery of Beirut where at least 700 Palestinian prisoners are being held by the Phalangists and where occupying forces and security personnel are also stationed. Neither the International Committee of the Red Cross nor anyone else is given access to this camp. It is believed that the prisoners held there are Palestinians who have been kidnapped from the refugee camps in south Beirut and from other areas in west Beirut since the end of September. It is not to be ruled out, however, that among them are also persons taken away from Sabra and Shatila during the massacres. In any case these persons are *desaparecitos* (missing) in the full, Argentianian sense of the term. They must be added to the count of other prisoners and missing held by the Lebanese army and security services at the Yarzeh ministry of defence basement, at the Badaro barracks, and other secret prisons, and whose number was estimated before the latest discovery at around 2500.

The chief commander of the Italian troops of the multi-national force, General Angioni, told the senators that the political agreement made by the US, French and Italian governments with the Lebanese government, which constitutes the legal basis for the presence of the force in Beirut, is such as to prevent the Italian contingent from intervening efficiently against "that which continues to happen here every day": arbitrary arrests, kidnappings and disappearances.

General Angioni described to the senators how the Palestinians in Sabra, Shatila and Burj al-Barajneh camps anxiously try, during the day, to be as physically close as possible to the Italian troops, seeking protection. The soldiers and officers want to protect them, but their orders are restricted to the prevention of violence immediately before them. UNRWA officials also expressed to the delegation their strong reserve in regard to the role of the multi-national force and their profound concern for the fate of the Palestinian population. Amal leader Nabih Berri described the terror exercised by Saad Haddad's militias throughout South Lebanon and expressed the fear that other puppets may take control of other areas in the country in the same way.

The delegation is also reported to have received the impression that "the results of the Lebanese inquiry into the Sabra and Shatila massacres will never be publicised in order not to compromise the (pact) between the Lebanese army and the Phalangists." This, obviously, is the official Lebanese explanation.

The foreign affairs commission's debate on the mission's report concludes with a statement of grave concern for the fate of the Palestinian population in Lebanon and in Beirut, and a decision to commit the Italian government, during an imminent debate on the issue in a plenary session of the parliament, to take initiatives to guarantee their safety. Meanwhile, it was announced that Italian President Sandro Pertini will visit Beirut on March 13, as part of a Middle East tour during which he will also pay official visits to Amman and Cairo. Formally, the visit to Beirut is motivated by Pertini's wish to visit the Italian troops stationed there. The Italian committee for the defence of Palestinian civilian populations, prisoners and missing in Lebanon will meet with the president before his departure to inform him in detail of the situation and ask him to personally visit the Palestinian camps and intervene in favour of the prisoners and missing.

The need for action to protect and save the Palestinian population and prisoners in Phalangist-dominated Beirut as well as in Israeli-occupied South Lebanon is becoming more urgent day by day. The dramatic picture painted by the Italian senators must be completed by other, no less reliable reports, according to which hundreds of Palestinians kidnapped by the Phalangists from the camps in Beirut have been killed by the latter.

Around these kidnapped and missing persons, Rita Porena, the correspondent of the Italian daily *Paese Sera*, reports from Beirut that a flourishing business in demands for ransom has emerged: "We have become some kind of a cake," Um Hassan said to me ironically, while indicating the mattress on the floor and the tiny kitchen stove, the only belongings left in her shack at Shatila camp. Following the kidnapping of a Palestinian, someone always introduces himself to the family, asking for ransom money. The figures vary between LP 3-10,000. In some cases, the family was made to listen to the voice of their relative on the phone before paying the money, but after the payment not one of those kidnapped ever returned home.

"They take away 14 year old boys too," Um Hassan told me, adding, "There are many children of that age at the Yarzeh and Badaro Lebanese army and security force prisons. Um Hassan's husband was taken away three months ago. He had all the documents in perfect order, but they would not release him. As in all other cases, he has not been accused of any offence.

"Among the others there is also Abu Yahyah, a PLO political department official who was charged with the contacts with western diplomats in Beirut. For two months now, European ambassadors have been seeking to intervene in his favour through the Lebanese government, to no avail. They have not even succeeded in obtaining an answer to their questions regarding the reasons for his arrest. The same goes for an administrative employee of the Palestinian National Fund. Ambiguity and evasiveness are the tradmark, in all these cases, of the Gemayel regime, which is subjugating the Palestinians to a cruel cat-and-mouse game while remaining, officially, a member of the Arab League . . .

"No Palestinian in Lebanon is allowed to know what is permitted and what is forbidden. Everything depends on the arbitrary will of the Lebanese in Beirut and of the Israelis in the South."

In the South, an appeal was sent to UNRWA secretary-general Olof Rydbeck by 85 of the Agency's employees operating in the area, saying "Massacres of the Sabra/Shatila type may happen at any moment now. The situation is dangerously deteriorating with kidnappings, assassinations and agression on Palestinians happening every single day." In fact, over the past 10 days, during which the Haddad forces, supported by the invasion troops continuing to occupy villages throughout southern Lebanon, Palestinians living in the area have been subjected to constant terror and violence and have been ordered to leave their homes and transfer with their families to the refugee camps in the Sidon area. After having installed its headquarters in Sidon and a second in Nabatiyeh, Haddad on February 24 "conquered" the township of Joub Jannine, 40 kilometers south of Beirut, chasing away the Lebanese internal security (police) contingent and installing his command in the municipality building. According to witnesses the Haddad troops (about 200 men) were transported to Joub Jannine by the occupation army.

Under these conditions it is perhaps not surprising that among observers and guests who were present at the PNC meeting in Algiers the question has been raised whether the situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon, prisoners and missing included, was given sufficient attention. To the issue are dedicated a few lines in point three and four on the chapter on Lebanon in the final political resolutions: "The PNC commits the PLO to undertake negotiations with the Lebanese government with a view to guaranteeing the security and safety of the Palestinian citizens resident in Lebanon, and to securing their rights to residence permits, free circulation, work and political and social freedoms. Action should be taken against collective or individual arbitrary arrest for political reasons and to free those in the prisons of the Lebanese authorities."

But above all, the observers felt, they had missed an unusual occasion — the presence in Algiers of hundreds of journalists from all over the world — to launch a call for world attention on the pressing and urgent problems concerning the life and death of tens if not hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

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RAFAH CAMP THREATENED WITH DESTRUCTION

Six hundred residents of what remains of Swedish camp, Rafah, won an Israeli High Court injunction February 16 temporarily prohibiting the occupation authorities from evacuating them and destroying their homes.

On February 8, the area military authorities ordered camp residents, via the Israeli housing department in Rafah, to leave their homes while, "they still had a chance, or their belongings would be destroyed along with the dwellings," according to one camp representative. "We refused," he said. "We refuse to leave our homes," said a 65-year-old fisherman, a refugee from al-Jureh, a village near Majdal (Ashkelon), destroyed in 1948.

Three rows of camp housing (30 buildings), closest to the security strip adjacent to the Palestine-Egypt border which has severed Rafah since last April 25, were destroyed three months ago. "At the time they said they would need to destroy only two rows for security, but later apologized for taking an extra row 'by mistake'," said a young camp resident. "But shortly after, (ex)-Defense Minister Ariel Sharon visited Rafah and promised that the rest of the camp would also be destroyed for security reasons."

"In the 16 years under Israeli occupation, no resident has been imprisoned on security charges. We have maintained friendly relations so that we would be able to stay here as fishermen and farmers (of the seaside agricultural fields — *mowasi*) where all the camp's men work," said one sea-toughened 30-year-old. Like other camp residents, he is a descendent of generations of farmers and fishermen from the southern coastal Palestinian villages of Hamameh, al-Jureh, Isdud and Barbara. All were destroyed after 1948. "If we are thrown out of here and relocated in another area away from the sea, we will die. None of us works in Israel and we have neither interest nor experience in industrial labour."

Members of the first 30 families evicted from their homes in mid-winter, are now relocated in Tel Al-Sultan camp, a government housing project inland, where about 4000 refugees evicted from other areas of Rafah since 1971 have also been moved.

Origins of Swedish Camp

The residents of Swedish camp have built their homes, first of clay, and later from cement with tin roofs, with the help of donations from Swedish UN troops stationed in the area in the late '50s, who came to know of the difficult living conditions of the refugees. There is still no electricity in the camp and water is pumped by hand from small wells. "We've asked the authorities for electricity since the mid '70s and they've refused. Now they say they are trying to help us by resettling us, and bringing us electricity there."

Camp residents have already felt the brunt of security measures. The fishermen are constantly pulled on shore for violations of the border limits on fishing. They claim they are arrested, even when they are far from the border area. The sea coast is considered a closed military area from 6 pm to 6 am daily, which also means that Swedish camp residents are under nightly curfew in their homes.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS SENTENCED FOR BEATING HEBRON STUDENTS

An Israeli military court in Jaffa sentenced four Israeli soldiers to up to six months imprisonment February 17 after convicting them of beating Palestinian students from Hebron University. In a long judgement, however, the court gave legal stature to Israeli Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan's guidelines which instructed soldiers to punish demonstrators and their families.

Officials and students from the university described the trial as a "show of democracy, designed for propaganda consumption." Three other soldiers, including then-deputy military governor of Hebron, Major David Mofaz, were acquitted of similar charges.

The incident which prompted the trial was a raid on the university on March 16, 1982. The incident was only investigated after Peace Now reserve soldiers held a press conference in mid-summer to protest official inaction on incidents of brutality.

Students at Hebron recall that over 100 of their colleagues were severely beaten at the university and the military compound in Hebron. Recalling the incident, Ibrahim Jakhadbeh, member of the student council, said that on that day the university was under seige by more than 500 soldiers. At the end of the day, the Israeli officer commanding the soldiers contacted the university administration and threatened that they would "forcefully enter the campus" unless the students left.

One official, Nabil Ja'abari, Hebron University public relations director, told *Al Fajr* he had warned that, "everybody will sleep in hospital, if the soldiers enter the campus." After negotiations, the Israeli officer commanding the beseiging force promised not to touch the students, if they agreed to disperse.

When students started to leave, Israeli soldiers stood in two rows, forcing students to pass between them. As the last group of students started to leave, the soldiers began to beat them with clubs. "The club of one soldier broke when he struck the shoulder of one student," Nabil Ja'abari recalls. Afterwards, 37 students were taken to the military compound where they were beaten up.

According to the detained students, the soldiers forced them to lie on their backs and walk on their bellies. A few days later, seven students were tried and sentenced to one month jail and fined IS9000 each. "Some students are still suffering from the effects of the beating," Ibrahim Jakhadbeh charged. A student named Jabr, for instance, has been suffering from hearing problems since he was beaten on this ears.

The seven soldiers brought to trial on charges of beating youths, defended themselves by informing the court that they were carrying out orders. Their lawyer brought to court guideline documents issued by the Israeli chief of staff. Among the guidelines, were instructions to "harass the population." Such harassment, ordered Eitan, should include mass round-ups, frequent detention for "suspected troublemakers," economic sanctions against families of demonstrators and communities and the construction of a special detention camp — al-Fara'a — near Jenin.

During his testimony to the court, February 9, the first from a chief of staff at such a trial, Eitan admitted that he gave instructions to take action against "troublemakers," but denied that he gave orders to beat up detainees.

The court's decision said Eitan's orders were justified "within the standards of public and international law." It also stated that the Palestinian population "assumes risks when it generates teasing."

The court also stated that General Hartabi, security director for the occupied territories, issued "clearly illegal orders."

Nabil Ja'abari described the trial as a "face lift for the damaged reputation of Israel." He explained that the beating was carried out by more than 50 soldiers who were acting on orders from senior officers. "Although the seven soldiers were used as a scapegoats, I don't think they will spend their terms in prison," he stated.

Women Prisoners Denied Access to Lawyers

Lawyers Walid Fahoum from Nazareth and Lea Tzemel from Jerusalem petitioned the Israeli High Court February 11 for permission to visit five Palestinian and Lebanese women prisoners who are being held in Neve Tertza prison in Ramleh. The two lawyers filed the petition after they were prohibited by the prison authorities from visiting their clients.

Suhailah Hilal, 25, Laila Murad Shakim, a Druze woman from Aley, Najah Suleiman Al-Haj, a Palestinian from Burj al-Shamali, Nabiha Diab Issa, a Palestinian from Ain al-Hilweh, and Abla al-Hassan, 34, a mother of four children, from Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp, appointed the two lawyers to defend them by way of Palestinian prisoners in the same prison. However, when the lawyers tried to meet their clients they were denied access. Tzemel told *Al Fajr* that she and Fahoum tried to visit the five women early in January but were turned back. Tzemel tried again on February 14, but her request was again turned down.

The two lawyers expressed concern about the health of the prisoners. They are said to have been subject to severe interrogation. Unconfirmed reports said that the five women, along with four others from Lebanon, will be brought before an Israeli military court.

UNWELCOME INVITATIONS

ISRAELIS FORCE VILLAGE LEAGUE ON TULKARM

A crowd of Village League supporters, the only group allowed public demonstrations, attended a celebration for the establishment of the Tulkarm district village league February 17 in the village of Habla. The meeting's guest of honor was General Shlomo Eliya, the head of the West Bank 'civil administration'.

Ismail Marzouk, the newly-selected head of the Tulkarm Village League appealed in a speech for Jordan's King Hussein to include the 'Leagues' in any future negotiations. Israel TV's Arabic service estimated the crowd at 4000. The Israeli government Arabic newspaper *Al Anba* said 9000 attended.

Earlier, the Israeli-organised celebration of the establishment of the Tulkarm Village League to be held in Tulkarm was cancelled February 7 after 14 mukhtars and village council members in the district refused to attend. Village Leaguers quit the town and reorganised their meeting at nearby Habla considered the birthplace of the Tulkarm League.

Effort was also put into organising an audience, according to local reports. Sources from Tulkarm reported that nine lorries taking Qalqilya agricultural produce to Jordan via bridges were stopped February 9 and ordered to Habla.

Residents of Kufr Sur and Kufr Jamal, were forbidden to travel for the week leading up to the meeting.

Employees in the education and agricultural departments in Tulkarm and Qalqilya districts were also made to attend. Israeli authorities handed invitation cards to the chairmen of the departments, one for each employee. Residents from Tulkarm told *Al Fajr* that the invitation cards implied the threat of dismissal if they did not attend.

The day before the event, Fayad Fayad, a member of the Tulkarm Dentists union, was sentenced to 15 days imprisonment and fined IS35,000 after being found guilty of "opposing the Village League." He was being targeted as one behind the memorandum signed by 14 mukhtars and village council members in which they declared their withdrawal from the Leagues. They said they were forced to affiliate with the League two weeks earlier.

MILITARY AUTHORITIES BAN BOOKS IN GAZA

The chief literary critic of the Khan Yunis area (*aka* Israeli military governor), after reviewing the books in Muhammad Salem al-Agha's downtown Citadel bookshop, asked the shopowner to appear February 19 at the local police station to receive his due.

"They told me that *al-Awdah* (the Return), *West Bank and The Rule of Law* by Raja Shehadeh and Jonathan Kuttab, published by the International Commission of Jurists, *Children's Tales* by Samia Faris, *From The Massacre to the Warfield*, an Islamic book, and *The Palestinian Resistance in Palestine* by Naji Aloush are banned, said a somewhat startled Muhammad Salem. This is the first time he has received any attention from 'literary circles' since opening his book and stationary shop in 1980.

"I don't deserve the spotlight," he remarked, "because I bought all these books from Jerusalem publishers and I received no prior warning that they might be banned." According to the latest military censorship list of illegal publications available to local lawyers, these books (and the magazine) have not been banned in the occupied territories.

Yatta Villagers Protest Largest Confiscation of Decade

"We Would Rather Die on Our Land Than Allow the Israelis to Take It."

The threat of imminent destruction to the traditional sources of their livelihood hangs over the population of the town of Yatta, 10 kilometers east of Hebron. About 170,000 dunums of land belonging to 64 extended families were declared 'seized' by the Israeli authorities February 2 for 'military' and 'settlement' purposes. It is the biggest grab of the decade. There was no discussion. That morning five military vehicles came to the town and soldiers took three mukhtars to the land to show them the land which the military government had decided to confiscate.

The seized land makes up more than 40 percent of the total land of the town, in which about 30,000 people live. It constitutes the main grazing area for the town's livestock as well as the main agricultural area. The land provides the sole source of income for 64 families and for a great portion of other residents. "Without this land we will be left with nothing," said one of the owners, "Each family has between 100 and 150 members. How will we all live?"

The bulk of the seized land is in a hilly area a few kilometers east of the town. On it stand several ancient hamlets, some of which are deserted. These villages, also known as **khirba**, have existed for generations and are used by farmers as temporary residences while they work their land and as stables for sheep, cattle and camels.

According to old people, their farmer-ancestors first used caves, which they cut out of the hills, for inhabitation as well as stabling.

In some **khirba**, for example, caves or old houses have been replaced with modern buildings and basic services have been provided. All the people living in the **khirba** are registered as part of the population of Yatta. They have houses in the town which are frequently used. The process of moving from the town to the hamlets and vice versa has not ceased since the Ottoman period.

Life Style

The **khirba** each hold 30 to 35 families, who spend most of the year there. The houses are old and generally consist of two stone rooms. Beside each house are caves and cisterns. The caves are used for keeping the animals and storing grains and animal feed.

At present, most of the land plots are planted with grains, mainly wheat, corn and barley. Some of the more difficult areas to cultivate are left as grazing areas for the livestock. "We have to leave land uncultivated," an old man Khalid Ibrahim told **Al Fajr**, "because all the previous grazing areas to the south fell into Israeli hands. They were estimated at hundreds of thousands of dunums and were closed by the Israeli authorities shortly after 1948."

In summer, farmers cultivate small plots of land with vegetables such as tomatoes and cucumbers. "It's just to satisfy our own needs," said one farmer, "Because of the dire shortage of water and complete absence of a modern irrigation system (we cannot grow commercially)."

The farmers say that nobody has considered installing modern irrigation systems. There are no agricultural cooperatives in the town, and everybody conducts his own affairs without any financial help from others. "We don't have money to irrigate," said Shehadeh, "Don't think that because we have a lot of land we are rich or millionaires. To tell you the truth we can hardly live from the available area . . . I don't know how we'll get on without it."

Gradual Land Grab

The residents of Yatta do not see this large confiscation campaign as the first or the last. "This is just preparation for swallowing up the rest of the town's land," claimed Muhammad al-Jundi, member of a youth committee. In the last few years four settlements were set up on Yatta land plots and now a 30-meter wide road is being opened through the town's land to interconnect them. Animal husbandry has been adversely affected by the previous confiscation campaign. "The Israelis," one farmer told **Al Fajr**, "prevent us from grazing our animals across the line they demarcated shortly before building the settlements." If sheep or cattle cross the line, they are confiscated or the owner is fined.

There is one answer to the question of whether Yatta's residents will leave the seized land, where they stay now to work: "Out of question," is the unanimous attitude of the farmers. They have decided to appeal to the High Court against the confiscation. They were given 21 days during which they have the right to raise objections in the High Court. "But we are not going to be satisfied with going to the court," said Shehadeh al-Jundi, "We will depend on ourselves and we would rather die on our land than allow the Israelis to take it."

INTERIOR MINISTRY SAYS NO TO LOCAL COUNCIL

Kaukab Annexed to Jewish Council

The hopes of the people in Kaukab, a village in the Galilee, for a local council, were dampened after Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg declared, October 7, the annexation of the village to a new Jewish regional council, Misgav. This is seen as a major set-back to three years of work to set up a local council to conduct the affairs of the 2000 inhabitants. During the campaign for an elected representative body, two petitions signed by 90 percent of the people of the village were sent to the Israeli interior ministry. A reply by the ministry to the population, however, was only sent when a question was raised in the Knesset by Tawfik Toubi, a Communist Party representative, early last summer.

The reply, which was signed by the interior minister said, "There are several families and **hamulas** (clans) in the village, and setting up a local authority might cause a lot of internal differences and trouble."

Ridiculous

The village population dismissed Yosef Burg's claim as "funny and ridiculous."

"Do the Israelis think they can hide the real reason behind their continued refusal of a local council?" questioned Ahmad al-Haj, a member of a locally established committee to press for council rights. "If the Israeli secret service (Shin Bet) did not intervene in the internal affairs of the village, peace along families would prevail."

Another member of the local committee, Kassim Hjuj, remarked, "We have ability and efficient cadres to lead a local council."

Kaukab residents point out that they have suffered great hardship because of the absence of a council. They had to totally initiate and finance most of the vital projects for the village. "Kaukab has been treated by the Israeli authorities almost as if it does not exist," one local said. Running water, electricity and an internal road network have been established by local committees without any financial help from the Israeli government. The millions of shekels which were needed for these projects were collected by the local residents.

According to Kaukab residents, "our village remained isolated and ignored by the Israelis until 1974 when local committees were set up to contact the water and eletricity companies to extend power and water to the village."

Until 1974, they drank water from wells and until 1980, they still used kerosene lamps to light their houses.

In April 1982, a 15-member extended local committee was formed in the village in a democratic poll to oversee the interests of the population and especially to press the authorities on the question of the local council.

Since taking office, the committee has, much to the surprise of residents and neighbours alike, overseen work to extend the internal road network to most parts of the village. The costs of this road network have been shared equally by each family in the village. "The success of the projects sponsored by the committee," said Ahmad al-Haj, "which enjoy full support and backing by the local inhabitants, undoubtedly refutes the claims of the Israeli interior minister and proves the unity of the population and their wish for the development of their village."

However, despite its achievements, residents do not see the existing committee as an alternative body to a local council. The committee does not enjoy official legality and cannot sponsor many other important projects for lack of money. Standard government grants for local councils are not given to Kaukab.

Kaukab residents list a sewage system, a garbage collection truck, a high school cultural club and 12 classrooms as vital projects which a council could execute and the committee cannot. Teachers point out that about 20 percent of elementary school pupils study in rented rooms and the 74 high school students have to commute on a daily basis to neighbouring villages to attend classes.

Annexation; More Discrimination

The annexation of Kaukab village to Misgav has aroused resentment and anger among the population. Their opposition to this latest step was first articulated in a petition signed by everyone. It was sent to the government earlier last month. So far there has been no reply. In the petition, the locals demanded a local council. There has been an indirect response, however — via the media.

The locals say they "do not believe" Israeli Northern District Commissioner Israel Koenig, promise made in **The Jerusalem Post**, last month, that Kaukab "will recieve equal treatment to Jewish settlements which lie under the jurisdiction of Misgav."

"There are enough examples," said one resident, "to back our distrust in Koenig's words. What have other villages, which are annexed to Jewish councils, such as al-Mazra'a, Danoun and Tarshiha got? They have been clearly discriminated against," he added.

Ahmad al-Haj said that he does not expect the Misgav council to give Kaukab what it gives to the settlements. Pointing to the four settlements which have been set up in the last three years around the village he said, "Look and you can have the answer yourself."

These three-year-old settlements have stepped 40 years ahead of the centuries-old Kaukab. Everything has been provided, and, in addition to the basic services, luxury facilities were laid on before the first settlers entered their houses.

Misgav is a settlement, just six kilometers from the village, which is still in the process of construction. Presently, it is settled by eight persons. A building for the regional council, a school, kindergartens and streets are being built at the moment. Misgav is scheduled to be a centre for 23 Jewish settlements and Kaukab.

The locals are determined to continue to fight this plan until it is cancelled. There is also talk of fighting the plan in the Israeli High Court. "We cannot be silent," said Ahmad Faris, a member of the local committee, "because we view this discriminatory step as one not only aimed at subordinating us, but as preparation for confiscation of the remaining lands of the village."

LETTERS

Call for Palestinian Self-Determination and Mutual Recognition

To The Members Of The 16th Palestinian National Council

Distinguished council members,

The last eight months have been one of the most difficult periods in the history of the Palestinian-Arab people. The aggression against it has reached a new climax of brutality. The oppression in the territories occupied by Israel in 1967 has increased; expropriation of lands, expulsions, harassment of academic institutions and the killing of demonstrators in the streets has become a daily occurrence. These facts are so well known to all, that even Zionist propagandists have already ceased to deny them.

The Israeli invasion in Lebanon, exactly fifteen years after the 1967 war, was aimed at breaking the political and military force of the Palestinian people. Thus Israel hoped to finally secure its occupation of the territories occupied in June 1967. In the Lebanese war, Palestinian fighters and their Lebanese allies stood practically alone — receiving no assistance from any country — against the powerful Israeli war-machine. In spite of this, the Palestinian struggle has not been defeated.

Palestinian fighters stood so courageously in the battle for Beirut that they gained even the respect of the Israeli soldiers. The Israeli war objectives have thus failed: the Palestinian people withstood the disaster that was prepared for them by Zionism; the portfolio of 1948 has been reopened; and Israeli society now finds itself in one of the most serious crisis in its history.

Distinguished council members,

We are members of a small revolutionary socialist organisation, who oppose the racist ideology and objectives shared by the majority of the Israeli people. In the society in which we live we have been promoting for many years the idea of the Palestinian right to national self-determination, including their right to establish an independent state; we demanded the recognition of the right of all the wars' refugees to return; and we have been calling for negotiations with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, the recognised representative of the Palestinian-Arab people. We have been doing all this in order to reach a stage of equality and mutual respect between the two peoples.

We have no illusions. We know that we are a small minority in Israel, and that there are not many who share our positions. However, we believe that such a perspective is not chimerical. The heavy and rising price paid by the Israelis for their government's Zionist policies strengthens the expressions of opposition; the Israeli camp that recognises the Palestinian people's rights is growing.

For more than twenty years now, we have been struggling against both the Zionist idea and its practice. We are convinced that in order to pave the road towards a just solution to the conflict, Israelis must recognize the Palestinian-Arab people's right of self-determination, and the Palestinians on their part should recognize the Jewish-Israeli people's right of self-determination. The majority of the Israeli people, who today support Zionist policies and willingly enlist to apply those policies, are precisely the people with whom the Palestinians will have to live in the future. The opposite is however also true: the Palestinians, who are portrayed today as the avowed enemies of the Israelis, are precisely the people with whom the Israelis will have to live in the future.

A common future of Palestinians and Israelis, without any form of oppression, will be possible only after both sides guarantee to each other, saying "we shall not oppress you"; in other words, "we recognise your right to national self-determination."

The recognition of the Israeli people's right of self-determination is therefore not only a just position that should be adopted, but also the most effective means in persuading large sections of the Israeli people to liberate themselves from the chains of Zionism and turn towards the path of peace. Every Israeli that will tread on this path will become a sincere ally, one who will bind his destiny with yours. The direct and vital interests which concerns both peoples, are of course different from the unreliable nature of powers, that are not so directly effected by the conflict.

Your fighters have demonstrated to the Israelis their courage in the battlefield; you can now, distinguished council members, show the Israelis how one recognises the rights of a people.

THE SOCIALIST ORGANISATION IN ISRAEL (MATZPEN)
Tel Aviv-Jaffa, February 10, 1983

Swedish Athletes Seek Exclusion of Israel

To the editor,

I am a member of a sports club in Sweden. This sports club fights also outside the sports field. We identify with the oppressed people of the world. We have during our ten years, given our support to the peoples of Vietnam, Zimbabwe and Palestine. For example, in 1978 when the football World Cup was played in Argentina we tried to put pressure on the Swedish national team to boycott the tournament.

This year a handball qualification-tournament for the Olympic games will take place. In one group, both Sweden and "Israel" participate and now we work to change that. We have started to distribute propaganda material requesting the Swedish handball-union to exclude "Israel" from their group.

If that is not possible we request Sweden boycott the tournament. We have also written letters to newspapers. The paper, **Swedish Handbool**, has taken our views seriously and this is very positive. Before the war in Lebanon last summer, it had not been probable that a Swedish sports-magazine would take any stand against "Israel." Accordingly, it has been a very remarkable change of opinion to the disadvantage of the Zionists.

The Swedish handball-union, however, apologises and says they have to follow rules and not take part in a boycott of "Israel". These rules are made by the Swedish national sports-union and one of them says: "we will not have international sporting activities with countries if the country in sport discriminates against anyone because of race, religion or political affiliation."

I have been in contact with Palestinians now living in Sweden and they have told me that Palestinian sportsmen living in the occupied territories are certainly subjected to discrimination. I would be grateful if you can help us with information on these questions. How are Palestinian sportsmen treated in "Israel"? Proof of discrimination would be very valuable for us. For example, an article, an interview, a photo from a paper or something like that.

We have another problem and that is time. It does not work in our favour. So please answer us as quick as you can.

With you in the struggle,
Nils Magnusson

OBITUARY

Simsim Refugees Mourn Defiant Mukhtar

For hundreds of refugees from Simsim village in southern Palestine, news of last Thursday's death of Othman Abd al-Qader Farajallah, 80, brought special sorrow. Farajallah — Abu al-Abed — one of two mukhtars and head of the largest village clan, retained his title after Simsim residents were expelled from their village (subsequently destroyed) in 1948. He took up residence in Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, where he was "particularly respected for his political stand against the Israeli authorities and for his social welfare concerns," according to local families.

The minimal legal status Othman Farajallah lost vis-a-vis the authorities, by refusing to accept an official Israeli mukhtar's stamp in 1967, he gained among the Jabalia-resident Simsim population. Until his death by cancer, on February 3, the mukhtar continued to function as a witness for marriages and in arranging **sulhas**, and in family matters that did not require government interference.

Before 1948, Palestinian mukhtars like Othman Farajallah, served as the villagers' representatives to the state authorities. They mediated in tax collection and in law enforcement by the police, as well as in the social sphere — signing marriage, birth and death certificates and **sulha** agreements. Under Egyptian rule in Gaza, they were stripped of most legal representation before the state, including birth and death certification.

After 1967, Othman Farajallah, along with many other mukhtars living in the Gaza Strip camps, refused to cooperate with the Israeli authorities. The Israelis disregarded the positive aspects of the mukhtars' traditional roles, they said, while capitalising on the importance of their social ties to try to use them in schemes to collectively threaten the camp residents. During the '70s, the occupation authorities attempted to reorganise the camps under a Village League-type association of mukhtars and to annex the camps to local municipalities through them.

Social Responsibility

While the mukhtar's responsibilities had diminished, Othman Farajallah's concern for social welfare, say Simsim's children, led him to establish a mutual aid fund for his clan in Jabalia after 1967. Those who could afford to pay, contributed a fixed sum for the clan welfare which has, over the years, gone to pay for needy individual's medical, death and university expenses.

The mukhtar of Simsim is survived by one son, Abd al-Latif, an official in the PLO in Saudi Arabia and by four daughters, all outside the country. He is also survived and remembered by the daughters and sons of Simsim-in-exile.

Detained for Reading

Israeli magistrates court in Jerusalem extended the detention of Samir Shukri Khamis, from Nazareth, February 16, in order to complete investigations of the charges against him. He was arrested February 14 at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, after has was found in possession of an article from *Falastin al-Thawra*. The article had been reprinted in the Arabic-language news organ of the Israeli Communist Party.

In his litigation before the court, the police representative accused the Palestinian detainee of possessing "material inciting to revolt." Felicia Langer, defense councillor, told the court that the material Khamis was carrying had appeared in several newspapers, including the January 21st edition of *Al Ittihad*.

KUFUR QALIL, BIRTHPLACE OF SA'AD SAYEL

The village of Kufur Qalil lies on the eastern slopes of Mount Jerzim just three kilometers from Nablus. It is in the news today not because of land confiscation, but because it is the birthplace of Sa'ad Sayel, military leader of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces, killed in a ambush in Beqa'a Valley, Lebanon, in October 1982. The present Palestine National Council meeting is dedicated to his memory.

The village covers the one kilometer from the top of the mountain to the edge of the Jerusalem-Nablus road. But, at a glance, there appears to be no village there. Blossoming almond trees presently conceal the village under a large white cover. The beauty is stunning. High pine trees tower over the village in most rocky places.

In the centre of the village, the historical heart of the community, dwellings butt up against each other. In the other half of the village houses are well spaced, each situated on one or two dunum plots.

Olives Confront Confiscation

Though village life has a timeless feel to it, Kufr Qalil residents are moving fast in the late 20th century. In the last two years, fear of possible land confiscation, which has grown steadily after 1967, materialised. About one-third of the total land of the 1200 population has been taken. A new settlement is being built on part of it.

According to the head of the village council, Suleiman Sayel, from 1967, residents had expected confiscation and had been steadily reclaiming undercultivated lands on the rocky slopes of the mountain. They began a programme of large scale olive planting, shortly after the occupation of the West Bank.

Now the intensive olive planting is not only seen as responsible for restricting land seizure but also provides a major source of livelihood. "The village," said one farmer, "is self-supporting from olive oil." Grains such as wheat and barley, are also part of the agricultural economy, but the village has to import wheat as well because of lack of plains land.

The village is not rich, however. Land reclamation has slowed down, partly because of Israeli pressure but also "due to lack of cash," one landowner told *Al Fajr*.

How Much Land?

About 700 dunums of the village's 3000 have been extracted for "security reasons." Of them 200 were lost to a 30-metre wide road recently cut through the village's plains. It leads, apparently, to a new settlement. The council head lost 50 dunums to the road. Earlier last year 13 owners of 500 dunums appealed to the High Court in Jerusalem but their case has not yet been heard. "The authorities claimed," said Suleiman Sayel, "that security reasons are behind the confiscation but they are liars . . . is this settlement for security?" Jewish settlers, he says, are going to be brought to live "on our account."

Agriculture, though, is no longer the economic mainstay it once was. Only 20 percent of the local population is completely dependent on agriculture. Most men work as hired labourers, in Nablus or Israeli factories. About 150 villagers are presently working in the Gulf, only returning for visits. They left before 1967 and are thus not eligible to live at home.

Local Council and Developments

The local council, set up in 1964, can do little because of lack of money and Israeli restrictions. The only vote for local council members was in 1974. Members have not been changed or re-elected since, as is the case with all other local councils in the occupied territories.

The council's pride is having added 10 rooms to the small elementary school building and setting up a four-room girls school. They also paved the school yards. With the growth of the olive economy the council opened roads to connect the fields with urban centers to facilitate the transport of crops. The village, however, does not have any medical facilities, a mother and child care centre, cultural club, sports hall or playground.

Village youths have no leisure facilities. Mukhles Muhammad, a local teacher, told *Al Fajr* that the Israeli authorities will not allow youths to open a club. "The military government," he said, "has been refusing to give us a permit, under the pretext that the club would be a focus for incitement and trouble."

There also has been no new construction recently. In the last 10 months, eight applications for building houses were turned down. No clear reason was given, Suleiman Sayel says, when he protested to the military government. The council head noted that the Israeli rejection of the building permits started after the confiscation campaign began.

Last year, Sayel says, he was pressured to join the Village Leagues. He reports that during one meeting at military headquarters he told the Israelis, "I am not ready to be a traitor." And reminded them, "My brother, Sa'ad Sayel, is a leader of the Palestinian revolution."

Proud of Sayel

Suleiman is proud of his brother Sa'ad Sayel (Abu Walid), who was born in 1931 and brought up in the village. Sa'ad's house has been left untouched since 1967. Pride over the village's most famous son is almost universal in the community. People note it was especially high during the siege of Beirut when Abu Walid's name was frequently in the news. "During the invasion of Lebanon," said one man, "I felt great pride... more than anytime before." He said that there are other national heroes from the village. "About 30 persons are either in prison or subject to frequent arrest for 'security' reasons."

Today the whole Palestinian nation joins Kufr Qalil in paying homage to Abu Walid.

OPINION

Time to Abandon Old Polemics

ONE ISRAELI'S ANGLE BY PERETZ KIDRON

Reporting from the Palestine National Council in Algiers, Dr. Amnon Kapeliuk (*Yediot Ahronot*, 21. 2. 83) describes an exchange between Ahmad Jibril and Abu Iyad. Responding to Jibril's criticism of the PLO leadership for its contacts with "Zionists," Abu Iyad retorted: "The distinction is between those (Israelis) who recognise our rights, and those who deny them."

It is deplorable that Abu Iyad's simple but incisive perception has yet to penetrate Israel's peace movement, where a barren and outmoded distinction between "Zionists" and "anti-Zionists" continues to impede joint action.

Abu Iyad's differentiation aptly defines the great divide in Israeli politics. On one side stand the major parties of the political establishment — Likud, Labour and the rest — all of whom subscribe to the "national consensus", aka "the three No's of Israel": no return to the '67 borders, no talks with the PLO, no Palestinian state. These operative principles rest upon a variety of philosophies: Jabotinsky's metaphysical nationalism, the religious Zionism of the NRP, the labour Zionism of the Alignment, and a plethora of other historical ideas and geopolitical theories. Substantial differences divide these schools, whose adherents have often split into mutually antagonistic camps.

But such antagonisms notwithstanding, recent days have again seen vigorous efforts towards the creation of a "cabinet of national unity" in which the present ruling coalition would be expanded to include the Labour opposition. The "wall-to-wall" coalition has yet to emerge — primarily because of narrow factional squabbling between its prospective partners — but it remains a distinct possibility in view of the basic agreement between Likud and Labour. As phrased with disarming frankness by Deputy Prime Minister David Levy, the broad coalition would be welded together by its "joint opposition to a Palestinian state."

But while the establishment endeavours to sink its differences and present a united front — splits and divisions continue to bedevil the liberal and dovish opposition. Labour doves are often at loggerheads with their colleagues in Mapam; Mapam accuses Sheli of poaching supporters in Mapam kibbutzim; the leaders of Peace Now are divided on tactics and strategy — and all of these groups are unanimous in rejecting cooperation with the Communists.

Obviously, there are legitimate political differences over the various tactical and strategical options, and advocates of each line are right to defend their views and try to canvass additional support. But the "ideological" disagreements which generate so much heat are largely irrelevant.

The Communists and their allies are self-proclaimed "anti-Zionists", whereas other peace groups miss no opportunity for "Zionist" breastbeating. But these apparently irreconciliable philosophical differences are in fact relics of a different historical era, having little or nothing to do with present day realities. In dealing with concrete issues, Zionist doves are bitterly critical of the expansionist policies of the Israeli government — while their anti-Zionist rivals (with the exception of some tiny splinter groups) are equally firm in rejecting any notion of dismantling the state of Israel, its Zionist origins notwithstanding.

In practice, there is broad agreement on a "dovish consensus", or what could be termed "the three no's of the Israeli peace movement": no occupation, no repression of Palestinian national rights, no boycott of the recognised representatives of the Palestinian people. That being the case, the polemics of the '30s and '40s should be left to historians and philosophers. In the political arena, the aim now must be a peace coalition to embrace all those — Israelis and Palestinians alike — who acknowledge that neither people has a future, without recognising the national rights of the other.

ORDER NISI TO STALL HOUSE DEMOLITION

Six Palestinian residents from Dhahriyeh, Hebron district, obtained an order *nisi* from the Israeli High Court, February 20, prohibiting the demolition of their houses. The step was taken after a son from each family was arrested on charges of stoning Israeli military vehicles. The petition is valid until the court hears their case.

The families took out the order *nisi* as a precautionary step. Under Israeli military law, homes of people suspected of committing security offences can be demolished by administrative order. "Past experiences taught people to take such a step in similar circumstances," Ibrahim Abu Ata, lawyer for the families asserted.

A group of seven youths, aged between 17 and 23, were arrested Ferbuary 14, and charged with membership in an "illegal organisation". Five of the group were also charged with throwing stones at Israeli military vehicles, January 30. An Israeli woman settler died after being hit by stones in Dhahriyeh. Abu Ata told *Al Fajr* that he learned from their families that the seven youths had been brought to the village by the police to reconstruct the incident. The police told the lawyer the youths had "confessed."

Following the incident, on January 30, the village was placed under curfew for 18 days. Dozens of youths were arrested on suspicion of stoning settlers.

During the curfew the Israeli military authorised the entry of some 100 settlers from Kiryat Arba to Dhahriyeh under military guard. Abu Ata said clients told him that the settlers had spent several hours threatening to demolish their houses, destroy their cars and expel stone-throwers and their families to Jordan.